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CONFIDENTIAL.

(7510.)

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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PART LVIII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF EGYPT.

155

1900.

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Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Egypt.

PART LVIII.

No. 1.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 1, 1900.)

(No. 215. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Cairo, December* 23, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a speech recently made by Moustapha Kamel, a young Egyptian agitator, who has gained some notoriety by his expressions of extreme Anglophobia. I am told that the meeting at which this speech was delivered was numerously attended, and notably that a few retired officers of the army were present in plain clothes.

Moustapha Pasha Fehmi, the President of the Egyptian Council, spoke to me a short time ago on the desirability of adopting some decisive measures of repression against Moustapha Kamel.

I understand, also, that many of the Europeans (non-British) resident in Cairo, are somewhat alarmed at the tone adopted by Moustapha Kamel and other agitators, as also by the spirit in which the native press deals with recent events in South Africa. I am taking steps to ascertain whether any military or civil officials in active service are concerned in these matters. If so, they may possibly be dealt with under the ordinary code of discipline. Further, for some long time past, no inflammatory newspapers have been allowed to circulate in the Soudan, where the mass of the army is stationed. I shall carefully watch events, but for the present I may say that I do not consider that any specially severe measures of repression are either necessary or desirable. They are not necessary because, although a good deal of loose talk is to be expected, there is for the time being nothing to make me believe that the present agitation is at all dangerous. It has, indeed all the appearance of being merely superficial. They are not desirable because any steps which would result in exalting a man such as Moustapha Kamel to the position of a political martyr are somewhat calculated to produce the evils which it is sought to cure.

Circumstances may, of course, occur which will necessitate a reconsideration of this view of the case. All that can now be said is that they have not as yet arisen.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Substance of Speech made by Moustapha Kamel Bey on December 19, 1899.

C'EST l'amour de la patrie que je viens encore vous prêcher ce soir, tâche à laquelle je me suis consacré et à laquelle vous devez participer pour la réalisation de nos espérances. J'ai toujours eu en vue l'indépendance de ma patrie, et bien qu'on dise qu'elle ne sera jamais indépendante, je continuerai toujours, coûte que coûte, ma noble tâche et je vous assure que l'avenir de l'Égypte est garanti. . . . .

Les Anglais, sous prétexte de s'intéresser à nous, de vouloir nous faire du bien et de maintenir l'ordre, nous privent de nos droits, bénéficient de tout à notre préjudice et nous serons bientôt leurs victimes. Mais pourquoi ne tiennent-ils pas leurs promesses? Pourquoi n'observent-ils pas leurs engagements? La civilisation exige que l'on soit fidèle à sa promesse. . . . . Mais hélas! l'ambition qui existe chez les particuliers existe encore même chez les Puissances qui se piquent d'avoir de l'honneur et de la civilisation, et tant que les Anglais sont de la sorte, tant qu'ils nous enlèvent nos droits et nuisent à nos intérêts pécuniaires, il n'y aura aucune union entre eux et les Égyptiens. S'il y en a parmi nous qui sont enclins aux Anglais c'est aux cœurs patriotes, vraiment patriotes, de défendre la chère patrie.

Oui, nous refusons la suprématie Anglaise et nous préférons mourir plutôt que de rester sous la direction Britannique. (Applaudissements.) Quoi? Resterons-nous toujours inactifs et nous sommes Musulmans de religion? Sommes-nous fiers de cet état de choses? Sommes-nous fiers du drapeau Britannique arboré au Soudan? Resterons-nous sourds à la voix de la patrie qui nous crie miséricorde en implorant notre compassion? Ne voyez-vous pas que Dieu accorde la victoire à ceux qui combattent pour la patrie. . . . . Pourquoi ne protestons-nous pas contre les Anglais? Pourquoi ne contrôlons-nous pas les actions du Gouvernement? Pourquoi faut-il que le peuple soit le jouet de ce Gouvernement?

Mes amis, vous savez tous que votre patrie est en grand danger. Tous les étrangers se glorifient de leur chère patrie et nous nous glorifions du mépris et de la misère où nous nous trouvons; sachez donc que vous êtes créés tous pour défendre la patrie.

Avant la guerre Turco-Grecque, nos ennemis disaient que l'Empire Turc est à sa décadence, qu'il est faible au dernier point et qu'il n'est capable de rien.

Eh bien, après les grandes victoires qu'il a remportées, il est prouvé qu'il reste toujours une des plus fortes Puissances de la terre. . . . .

L'union, mes amis, l'union fait la force; sans l'union il n'y a pour nous aucun espoir présent ou futur . . . . Mais je constate avec regret que la division se trouve parmi vous, et vos procès qui abondent aux Tribunaux en sont la preuve. On dirait vraiment que vous êtes loin de l'esprit de l'Islam qui nous prescrit l'union. Jusqu'à quand resterez vous éloignés de cet esprit? ne voyez vous pas que le mal devient irrémédiable? . . . .

Pourquoi ne pas fonder les Sociétés et les Compagniea? . . . . Pourquoi laisser les étrangers gagner notre argent? Pourquoi ne pas travailler comme eux à l'industrie et au commerce?

Oui, mes amis, fondez les Sociétés de Commerce et d'Industrie. Élevez vos enfants dans l'esprit Musulman et éloignez vos filles de l'éducation Européenne. (Applaudissements.)

Rappelez-vous que les Musulmans ne vont pas en avant parce qu'ils ne connaissent la religion que de nom . . . . Est-ce que cette religion né defend-elle pas de trahir la patrie? ne prescrit-elle pas de la servir? . . . . Pourquoi, mes amis, chercher une délivrance de vos maux en dehors de l'Islam, alors que votre salut ne se trouve qu'en lui. Voyez comme les nations étrangères invoquent leur religion dans les temps des malheurs, voyez comme ils se réuissent alors et demandent la victoire à Dieu. S'il en est ainsi, pourquoi vous, qui êtes Musulmans du rite El-Hanifi, resterez-vous indifférents à l'amour de la patrie et à sa protection?

Jusqu'ici le désaccord des gouvernants Musulmans entre eux a été un obstacle au progrès de l'Islam; mais à l'heure qu'il est, les relations entre l'Égypte et la Turquie sont des plus intimes grâce à la sagesse de notre cher Khédive Son Altesse Abbass Hilmi. Oui, avouons-le, Turquie, Khédive, et Égyptiens ne font qu'un. D'ailleurs, cette union entre nous et la Turquie est très importante et très essentielle. Il est vrai qu'à Constantinople, beaucoup de nos ennemis tâchent de semer la discorde entre nous et la Turquie, en disant que ces bonnes relations sont purement apparentes mais ces machinations seront et sont infructueuses. De même qu'en Égypte se trouve un petit nombre d'ennemis cachés qui voudraient anéantir l'Empire Turc pour le faire remplacer par un Empire Arabe et je l'avoue, ces ennemis cachés sont bien plus à craindre que les autres.

Souvenez-vous, mes amis, que le Sultan c'est l'Islam, c'est le Khalife de Dieu, que celui qui l'insulte c'est l'Islam, c'est Dieu qu'il insulte. Qu'il soit même irrité contre nous, qu'il ait même son sabre au-dessus de nos coups, il a droit à notre respect et à notre amour. Oui, encore une fois, c'est lui qui tient la clef de notre progrès, et le jour le plus heureux et le plus glorieux de notre vie ce sera le jour où nous pourrons tous mourir pour le Sultan et pour notre pays. (Applaudissements.)

No. 2.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 1, 1900.)

(No. 216.)

My Lord, *Cairo, December* 24, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith two Khedivial Decrees, published in the "Official Journal" of yesterday, appointing Colonel Sir Reginald Wingate to the posts of Sirdar of the Egyptian army and Governor-General of the Soudan, in succession to Major-General Lord Kitchener of Khartoum.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Extract from the Egyptian "Journal Officiel" of December 24, 1899.

Decree.

NOUS, Khédive d'Égypte,

Sur la proposition de notre Ministre de la Guerre et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres,

Décrétons:

Article 1er. Le Général de Brigade, Sir Reginald Wingate Pacha, est nommé, à partir du 22 Décembre, 1899, Général de Division, Sirdar de l'armée et Chef de l'État-Major, en remplacement du Général de Division, Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, démissionnaire.

Art. 2. Notre Ministre de la Guerre est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait au Palais d'Abdine, le 23 Décembre, 1899 (20 Chaban, 1317).

(Signé) ABBAS HILMI.

Par le Khédive:

Le Président du Conseil des Ministres,

(Signé) MOUSTAPHA FEHMY.

Le Ministre de la Guerre,

(Signé) M. ABANI.

We, Khedive of Egypt,

In accordance with Article 3 of the Agreement between Her Britannic Majesty's Government and our Government, Cairo, the 19th January, 1899,

Decree:

Ferik Sir Reginald Wingate Pasha, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, is appointed Governor-General of the Soudan, *vice* Ferik Lord Kitchener of Khartoum and Aspall, Pasha, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., who has resigned that appointment.

Done at Abdine Palace, this 20th day of Shaban, 1317 (23rd December, 1899).

(Signé) ABBAS HILMI.

No. 3.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 1, 1900.)

(No. 604.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 27, 1899.

IN compliance with a wish expressed by the Sultan, I waited upon His Majesty after the Selamlik on Friday last.

After some preliminary remarks mostly connected with the state of his health and

a cold which he had caught whilst assisting at the ceremony of the departure of the caravan for Mecca, His Majesty alluded to the war in South Africa. He deplored the events which had lately occurred, not only from a personal point of view but also because the interest of Turkey, the old ally of England, demanded that British arms should gain a complete and easy victory. He thought that we had divided our forces too much, and advocated a concentrated movement. His Majesty again expressed a warm sympathy with Her Majesty's Government in their present troubles.

I then referred to some messages which he had sent me in connection with the anti-Turkish press in Egypt, and thinking the opportunity favourable I submitted to His Majesty a translation of the substance of Lord Cromer's despatch No. 73 of the 17th April to your Lordship, with the omissions which had been suggested by his Lordship.

After a slow and careful perusal His Majesty said that Lord Cromer's advice to the Khedive was excellent, and could not fail to have good results. He stoutly denied, however, that he had ever encouraged Moukhtar Pasha to support an anti-English press or that he had any connection with the Egyptian press.

I explained to His Majesty Lord Cromer's desire to meet as far as possible the wishes of His Imperial Majesty and his views as to the insignificance of the papers that so frequently disturbed His Majesty's mind, adding that such papers only seemed to exist on the subsidies, in the form of hush money, so often and so liberally paid by His Majesty.

The Sultan denied most positively that he had ever paid anything to such papers, or that he had ever subventioned a "young Turk" to return to the country. Some young Turks, he said, had returned to Constantinople and implored the pardon which he had always granted, but except for finding them some employment to enable them to live he had never given them anything; others might have done so in his name, but he could assure me that he had no knowledge of it. Certainly, it was far from his intention to adopt in any way any attitude of opposition to England in Egypt, and in support of this he referred to his telegraphic correspondence with Moukhtar Pasha as to the sending of Egyptian troops to the Transvaal. His Majesty spoke of the new military organization which provided more troops than were allowed by the Firman, and said that Moukhtar Pasha's reply was "inconvenant," and had displeased him. Moukhtar had said that the new military organization was a failure, and that the troops were not sufficient or fit to be sent out of Egypt. If, His Majesty added, he could spare troops from Turkey he would have been glad to have offered a strong contingent to Her Majesty's Government. I thanked His Majesty for the very strong sympathy and friendly assurances which he had expressed on this and previous occasions in regard to the war, but I did not think it necessary to make any comment upon his remarks respecting the disposal of Egyptian troops, as I doubted whether His Majesty took them "au grand sérieux" himself. He can hardly, I presume, suppose that he can dispose of the Egyptian army at his free will.

His Majesty concluded by requesting that his respectful compliments might be presented to the Queen.

(Sent to Cairo.)

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 4.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Viscount Cromer.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January* 2, 1900.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 209 of the 9th ultimo, submitting the draft of a Decree respecting the Domain Loan.

I authorize you to assent to the Decree on behalf of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 5.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 8, 1900.)

(No. 217.)
My Lord, *Cairo, December* 25, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Special Army Order by His Highness the Khedive, expressing his high appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Lord Kitchener, and his regret at his departure from this country.

I have, &c.
(For Viscount Cromer),
(Signed) RENNELL RODD.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Special Order of the Day by His Highness the Khedive.

HIS Excellency Ferik Lord Kitchener Pasha, Sirdar of the Army and Governor-General of the Soudan, having been summoned to fill an important post elsewhere, we desire to place on record our appreciation of the valuable services he has rendered our army and our country.

Under his able direction our troops have attained a high standard of efficiency, and he has on many occasions led them to victory, resulting in the complete extinction of Mahdism and the reconquest of the Soudan.

Whilst regretting the severance of his connection with our army and country, we desire to express our cordial good wishes for his welfare and prosperity in his future career.

Done at Abdin Palace, this 20th day of Shaban, 1317 (23rd December, 1899).

(Signed) ABBAS HILMI.

No. 6.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Viscount Cromer.

(No. 10.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, January* 9, 1900.

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires called to-day and stated that he was directed to ask that your Lordship might be instructed to support the request of the Greek Government for the admission of the definitive presence of an Hellenic Representative in the Mixed Court of Appeal at Alexandria on the same footing as that of the Representatives of the Powers now represented in that Court.

I shall be obliged if your Lordship will furnish me with your views on this request.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 7.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Viscount Cromer.

(No. 5. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, January* 10, 1900.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 215 of the 23rd ultimo, inclosing copy of an anti-English speech recently made by Moustapha Kamel, and stating the reasons why you consider that no specially severe measures of repression are either necessary or desirable.

I concur in your Lordship's views on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 8.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 13.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Cairo, January 2, 1900.*

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting the selection of a successor to the late Orthodox Patriarch of Egypt, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a telegram addressed to the Khedive by the Sublime Porte, recommending His Highness to refer the question of the Patriarchal election to Constantinople for settlement.

The General Assembly of electors has been convened for to-morrow. The Government do not therefore propose to send a reply to this telegram until after the selection of candidates has become an accomplished fact.

I have, &c.
(For Lord Cromer),
(Signed) RENNELL RODD.

Inclosure in No. 8.

The Sublime Porte to His Highness the Khedive.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.) *Le 27 Décembre, 1900.*

IL paraît qu'il a été impossible jusqu'à présent de résoudre la question d'élection au siège du Patriarcat Grec Orthodoxe vacant au Caire et à Alexandrie, à cause de l'immixtion de quelques chefs spirituels étrangers qui ont ni intérêt ni qualité d'y intervenir.

Votre Altesse sait que pendant les huit fois que ce siège est devenu vacant depuis l'an 1203, l'élection du Patriarche a été faite par les soins du Patriarcat de Constantinople; d'autant plus qu'en raison de la persistance des immixtions étrangères qui avaient surgi lors de la nomination du Patriarche décédé, Sophronious Effendi, le Patriarcat de Constantinople, grâce aux démarches énergiques et efficaces faites à l'époque par le Khédivat, avait été chargé de procéder à l'élection, et la question a reçu une solution satisfaisante.

Pour ce motif et pour prévenir la fâcheuse impression qui sera produite par les excitations et les manœuvres qu'on a l'intention d'entreprendre pour l'élection du Patriarche, et afin que cette élection soit faite d'après les anciennes règles établies, un Iradé Impérial sanctionnant une décision prise par le Conseil des Ministres a ordonné de prier votre Altesse de répondre aux exigences de la situation, en déférant la question de l'élection au Patriarcat de Constantinople et d'en aviser la Sublime Porte, pour que le personnage qui sera choisi de commun accord avec votre Altesse soit investi de cette charge par Iradé Impérial.

No. 9.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 15.)
Telegraphic.) P. *Cairo, January 20, 1900.*

I AM informed that the General in command of the French garrison in Tunis named Begassière, will shortly visit this country. As his son-in-law is local manager of the Suez Canal, he will be in an unusually favourable position for ascertaining anything he may wish to learn about the Canal.

I understand that permission is very rarely granted to a French officer in command to leave his post. The reason alleged is the state of his health.

No. 10.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 23.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Cairo, January 23, 1900.*

GREECE is the only Power which has not agreed to the prolongation of the Mixed Tribunals and to the new Bankruptcy Laws. Would it not be possible to make some representation at Athens on the subject? The issue of a Decree before the 1st February is absolutely necessary, and the Greek Government must necessarily be excluded if it does not send in its adherence. Great inconvenience will be caused to Greek subjects by this.

I have repeated the above to Her Majesty's Minister at Athens.

No. 11.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January 24, 1900.*

MIXED Courts in Egypt.

I request that you will make representations to the Greek Government in the sense suggested in Lord Cromer's telegram to you of the 23rd instant.

No. 12.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 25.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Cairo, January 8, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, extracted from the "Official Gazette," the text of a Khedivial Decree, which has obtained the consent of the Powers, assigning a sum of £ E. 40,000 to meet payments on account of Soudan indemnities, and a sum not to exceed £ E. 25,000 to be distributed for the relief of officers and Government servants who have been held prisoners in the Soudan, or their families.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Extract from the "Journal Officiel" of January 3, 1900.

Decree.

NOUS, Khédive d'Égypte,

Sur la proposition de notre Ministre des Finances et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres et avec l'assentiment des Puissances Signataires de la Convention de Londres,

Décrétons:

Article 1er. Il sera prélevé sur l'actif de la liquidation:

1. Une somme de £ E. 40,000 affectée au paiement de créances relatives au Soudan et constatées soit par des Raghas, soit par des inscriptions dans les registres de la comptabilité du Soudan, existant entre les mains du Gouvernement.

2. Une somme dont le montant ne pourra en aucun cas excéder £ E. 25,000 destinée à être distribuée à titre de secours aux officiers et aux employés qui étaient prisonniers au Soudan, ou à leurs familles.

Art. 2. Une Commission spéciale composée de MM. les Commissaires-Directeurs

de la Caisse de la Dette Publique, de M. N. Diomedes et de M. Ch. de Rocca Serra, est chargée de statuer souverainement sur les demandes relatives aux créances visées à l'alinéa 1er de l'Article 1er.

La Commission arrêtera la liste et le montant des créances qui auront été établies conformément aux conditions posées par l'Article 1er du présent Décret.

Ces créances seront payées sur la base de 66 pour cent et dans l'ordre où elles auront été présentées par les intéressés.

La Caisse de la Dette procédera à ce paiement jusqu'à épuisement des £ E. 40,000 prévues par l'Article 1er.

Art. 3. La Commission ne sera valablement constituée que si cinq au moins de ses membres sont présents; elle statuera dans tous les cas à la majorité absolue des voix.

Art. 4. La Commission déterminera elle-même, s'il y a lieu, la procédure à suivre; elle fixera et fera publier aux "Journaux Officiels" le délai dans lequel les demandes devront être présentées sous peine d'irrecevabilité; elle pourra s'adjoindre dans ses travaux les personnes dont le concours lui paraîtra utile.

Art. 5. La Commission spéciale arrêtera également le montant des secours à prélever sur la somme de £ E. 25,000 prévue à l'alinéa 2 de l'Article 1er du présent Décret.

No. 13.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 9.)

My Lord, *Cairo, January* 18, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 10 of the 9th instant. I have already been in communication with M. Gryparis, the Greek Consul-General, on the subject of the admission of a permanent Greek Judge on the Mixed Court of Appeal. The Egyptian Government is quite prepared to adopt this measure, which may also very properly receive the support of Her Majesty's Government. But, as I have informed M. Gryparis, it is useless to make an official representation to the Powers in connection with this matter unless the assent of the French Government be previously obtained. I do not think that the French, or any other Government, are likely to make any objection to the proposal, on its own merits, nor to the further proposal, with which it is intimately connected, that the minor Powers should also be permanently represented on the Court of Appeal by a collective Judge. But a matter of this sort has to be submitted to the French Chamber, and I understand that the French Government are, therefore, much disinclined to give their assent. I do not think it likely that the Greek Government will be able to get over this objection, although it is possible that the real reason may not be stated quite so pointedly as I have put it. Under these circumstances, although the Greek Government may be assured of British assent to the proposal if it is definitely put forward, the matter is, I fear, not one in which it is possible for Her Majesty's Government to give any further assistance.

I may add that the matter is not really one, I think, of much practical importance to the Greek Government. I regard it as almost certain that, when the present Greek Judge retires, another will be appointed in his place.

(Confidential.)

The above affords sufficient material for a reply to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires. I may perhaps add that in our own interests, it will perhaps be as well not to encourage warmly any action which would be likely to produce a discussion on Egyptian affairs in the French Chamber.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

No. 14.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Cairo, January* 27, 1900.

GREEK Judge in Court of Appeal: My despatch No. 9 of the 18th January.

I think I may very possibly be able to arrange this question in the sense the Greek Government desire, as a consequence of communications which have passed between myself and Boutros Pasha and the French Agent. I will report further as soon as possible. Meanwhile, it would be better to defer making any further communication to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires.

No. 15.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 20.)

My Lord, *Athens, January* 24, 1900.

I TOLD M. Romanos to-day that I had just received a telegram from Lord Cromer, mentioning that Greece, which had alone among the Powers not agreed to the prolongation of the Mixed Courts and to the new Bankruptcy Law, would run the risk of being excluded, as the Decree would be issued on the 1st February.

His Excellency said he knew of no reason why Greece should not adhere. He could not go into details without the dossier, but he would certainly telegraph at once to M. Gryparis, who had charge of the question in Egypt, and, as I knew, had been instructed to obtain the appointment of another Greek Councillor in the Appeal Court.

I presume that the Greek Agent has delayed his adhesion to the last moment in the hope of his demand being conceded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 16.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 15.)

My Lord, *Cairo, January* 25, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a note drawn up by Sir William Garstin,* which has been published in the "Journal Officiel," on the prospects of the Nile summer supply for 1900.

It was pointed out by Her Majesty's Commissioner in Uganda in October last that the water level of the Victoria Nyanza stood, at that time, 2 feet below the normal, while the Upper Nile at Wadelai was no less than 4½ feet below the average level of previous years.

A reference to the Table published in the note shows that on the 15th January the discharge of water at Assouan was only 578 cubic metres per second, as compared with 955 at the same date in 1889, and 1,146 in 1878, the two years following on the two worst Nile floods hitherto recorded.

There can, therefore, I fear, be no doubt that the condition of the river at the present time is altogether without precedent, and it is therefore manifestly impossible to forecast the ultimate level to which the river may eventually fall. The excellent arrangements, however, made by the irrigation service, and the public works undertaken over a series of recent years will, I feel confident, do much to mitigate the evils inevitably attending the failure of the summer water supply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

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* Not printed.

No. 17.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 19.)

My Lord, *Cairo, January 30, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of the Khedivial Decree respecting the Domains economies, of which the draft was forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 209 of the 9th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 17.

Extract from the "Journal Officiel" of January 22, 1900.

Decree.

NOUS, Khédive d'Égypte,

Vu la Convention du 31 Octobre, 1878, et la Convention Additionnelle du 14 Avril, 1880, intervenues entre le Gouvernement Égyptien et MM. N. M. de Rothschild et Fils, de Londres, et MM. de Rothschild, Frères, de Paris;

Vu le Décret du 27 Juillet, 1885;

Vu le Décret du 6 Juin, 1890;

Vu les Décrets des 18, 25 Mars, et 29 Mai, 1893;

Avec l'assentiment des Puissances qui ont précédemment accepté les Décrets susvisés;

Sur la proposition de notre Ministre des Finances et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres,

Décrétons:

Article 1er. Les économies réalisées par suite de la conversion des obligations Domaniales hypothécaires d'Égypte 5 pour cent, en obligations 4¼ pour cent, ne seront versées à la Caisse de la Dette Publique que lorsque les revenus des Domaines excéderont les sommes nécessaires pour faire face à toutes les autres charges qui leur incombent et seulement dans la mesure où ils les excéderont.

Art. 2. Toutes les sommes versées à la Caisse de la Dette Publique depuis la conversion de la Dette Domaniale jusqu'à ce jour, et toutes celles qui seront versées par l'Administration des Domaines, en vertu de l'Article 5, à titre d'économies de la conversion de la Dette Domaniale, ainsi que les intérêts produits et à produire par ces sommes ou les titres achetés au moyen de ces sommes, sont expressément affectés, jusqu'à complet épuisement, au paiement des insuffisances de revenus des Domaines, y compris les impôts dus pour les terres situées dans les provinces non affectées.

Art. 3. Les dites sommes en capital et intérêts resteront en dépôt, dans les conditions fixées par l'Article 5 du Décret du 6 Juin, 1890, à la Caisse de la Dette Publique, qui établira le compte des intérêts déjà encaissés et arrêtera à la fin de chaque année le compte des intérêts perçus pendant l'année.

Art. 4. Chaque année, jusqu'à épuisement des sommes ou titres dont il est parlé ci-dessus, l'insuffisance des revenus des Domaines sera payée par la Caisse de la Dette à l'Administration des Domaines, aussitôt que cette insuffisance aura été fixée par la Commission chargée d'arrêter les comptes de l'Administration des Domaines.

La Caisse de la Dette est autorisée à vendre les titres qu'elle a et aura en dépôt, jusqu'à concurrence du montant des sommes à payer à la Commission des Domaines.

Art. 5. Si, d'après les comptes, l'Administration des Domaines a un excédent de revenus permettant de payer tout ou partie des économies de la conversion, la somme à verser de ce chef à la Caisse de la Dette sera payée par l'Administration des Domaines aussitôt que la Commission chargée d'arrêter les comptes aura procédé à cette opération.

Art. 6. Si, après liquidation totale de l'Emprunt Domanial, il reste en dépôt à la Caisse de la Dette partie des sommes qui font l'objet de l'Article 3 ci-dessus, ces sommes suivront le même sort que les économies de la conversion de la Dette Privilégiée.

Art. 7. La Dette Domaniale ne pourra être remboursée avant l'expiration d'une période de quinze ans commençant le 1er Janvier, 1900, sous réserve des dispositions édictées à l'Article suivant.

Art. 8. L'amortissement de la Dette Domaniale se fera exclusivement:—

(*a.*) Avec le produit des ventes des propriétés des Domaines dans les conditions prescrites par l'Article 3 de notre Décret du 18 Mars, 1893;

(*b.*) Avec les excédents des revenus nets des Domaines sur le montant nécessaire pour le service des coupons à 5 pour cent.

Tout autre mode d'amortissement est et demeure supprimé.

Les ventes pourront être consenties moitié au comptant, moitié par annuités portant intérêts à 4·25 pour cent et dont le nombre ne pourra excéder quinze.

Art. 9. Sont formellement maintenues toutes les dispositions des Conventions passées entre le Gouvernement et MM. de Rothschild, et des Lois et Décrets en vigueur, auxquels il n'est pas expressément dérogé par le présent Décret.

Art. 10. Notre Ministre des Finances est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait au Palais de Koubbeh, le 20 Janvier, 1900.

(Signé) ABBAS HILMI.

Par le Khédive:

Le Président du Conseil des Ministres,
(Signé) MOUSTAPHA FEHMY.

Le Ministre des Finances,
(Signé) AHMED MAZLOUM.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) BOUTROS GHALI.

No. 18.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 20.)

My Lord, *Cairo, February 3, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, extracted from the "Journal Officiel," the text of a Khedivial Decree, dated the 30th January, 1900, prolonging the powers of the Mixed Tribunals for a new period of five years from the 1st February, 1900.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Extract from the Egyptian "Journal Officiel" of January 30, 1900.

Decree.

NOUS, Khédive d'Égypte,

Vu le Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire pour les Procès Mixtes et notamment l'Article 40 du titre 3;

Vu les Décrets des 6 Janvier, 1881, 28 Janvier, 1882, 28 Janvier, 1883, 19 Janvier, 1884, 31 Janvier, 1889, 3 Février, 1890, 29 Janvier, 1894, 31 Janvier, 1899, prorogeant successivement jusqu'au 1er Février, 1900, le terme de la première période des Tribunaux Mixtes Égyptiens;

Considérant que notre Gouvernement et les Gouvernements des Puissances intéressées sont convenus de proroger pour cinq années les pouvoirs des dits Tribunaux;

Sur la proposition de notre Ministre de la Justice et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres,

Décrétons:

Article 1er. Les pouvoirs des Tribunaux Mixtes sont prorogés pour une nouvelle période de cinq ans à partir du 1er Février, 1900.

Art. 2. Nos Ministres de la Justice et des Affaires Étrangères sont chargés de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait au Palais d'Abdine, le 30 Janvier, 1900.

(Signé) ABBAS HILMI.

Par le Khédive:

Le Président du Conseil des Ministres,
(Signé) MOUSTAPHA FEHMY.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) BOUTROS GHALI.

Le Ministre de la Justice,
(Signé) IBRAHIM FOUAD.

No. 19.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 63. Confidential.)

Paris, February 9, 1900.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an article from the "Matin" suggesting the necessity of foreign interference in Egypt in view of the recent mutinous action of the Egyptian troops in the Soudan and of the withdrawal of the greater part of the British Army of Occupation.

This article, which has caused some stir in Paris, is stated on good authority to have been directly inspired by M. Delcassé.

Whether this is the case or not, any further unfavourable rumours from Cairo at the present moment will doubtless be seized upon by the French press as an excuse for raising the Egyptian question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Extract from the "Matin" of February 6, 1900.

NOUS croyons savoir que les récentes nouvelles du Caire ont appelé l'attention des Chancelleries sur l'Égypte.

L'Angleterre occupe en ce pays une situation de fait qui n'a jamais été reconnue ni par la Turquie, Souveraine, ni par aucune Puissance intéressée. Une Convention Internationale a déclaré que le Canal de Suez deviendrait route neutre, le jour où les Anglais retireraient leurs troupes d'Égypte.

La prépondérance Britannique a été tolérée jusqu'à ce jour, parce que le Gouvernement de Londres invoquait la nécessité de maintenir l'ordre.

Or, aujourd'hui, un double fait se présente.

D'une part, le Sirdar, Général Égyptien, a abandonné son poste pour prendre un commandement dans les troupes Anglaises du Sud de l'Afrique; en même temps, le Corps d'Occupation, ou plutôt de protection, est tellement affaibli qu'il reste à peine 2,000 hommes pour défendre les frontières et sauvegarder le pouvoir du Khédive. C'est donc une évacuation presque totale de l'Égypte. On se demande alors si le moment n'est pas enfin venu de faire jouer le Traité qui garantit la neutralité du Canal.

D'autre part, il s'en faut que l'ordre soit assuré, puisque les dépêches annoncent des mutineries parmi les troupes indigènes. Comme toutes les Puissances sont intéressées au maintien de l'ordre, il est évident que, dans le cas où l'Angleterre, absorbée par d'autres soucis, se trouverait incapable de remplir la mission qu'elle a assumée de son propre chef, les Puissances seraient obligées d'intervenir à leur tour, pour faire respecter leurs nationaux et les institutions mixtes dont elles ont la garde.

La France, depuis qu'elle a renoncé au condominium, n'a nullement abdiqué ses droits; mais elle considère que la question d'Égypte est devenue internationale.

Depuis 1881, d'autres intérêts que les siens se sont développés dans les pays dont le Canal de Suez est la route. Par exemple, l'Allemagne a acquis des possessions dans

l'Afrique Orientale et dans l'Extrême-Orient. Si la question d'Égypte est posée, l'Allemagne a sa place marquée dans le concert des Puissances intéressées. Elle profitera, autant et plus que bien d'autres, de la neutralité du Canal.

Le Gouvernement de Berlin n'ignore pas quels sont les sentiments de la double alliance, c'est-à-dire de la France et de la Russie. Il n'a pas à craindre, en cas d'initiative, de n'être pas accompagné et de jouer le rôle ingrat de cavalier seul.

L'argument tiré de l'insuffisance de la marine de guerre Allemande ne vaut rien, parce que les marines des Puissances continentales unies sont assez fortes pour faire respecter la neutralité d'une voie maritime qui doit profiter à toutes les batelleries de commerce, y compris celle de l'Allemagne, qui a pris une si considérable extension pour le commerce d'Orient.

Ainsi, rien n'empêcherait l'Allemagne de coopérer à une action commune des Puissances continentales, comme elle a fait lors de la guerre Sino-Japonaise. Le sentiment public d'outre-Rhin est favorable à cette politique.

Dans les circonstances présentes, l'inaction de l'Empereur Guillaume II laisserait supposer que ce Souverain n'est pas libre. Ou bien il aurait pris des engagements secrets avec l'Angleterre plus étendus que ceux qui sont connus; ou bien il se sentirait retenu par ses affections de famille et la situation de Prince du sang qu'il occupe à la Cour Britannique; ou bien encore, à une politique sauvegardant les intérêts généraux de son Empire, répondant aux désirs fort raisonnés de son peuple, il préférerait une politique d'honnêtes courtages et de mesquins marchandages.

En ce dernier cas, l'occasion lui est favorable. Au moment où des événements, plus que la volonté des Puissances, posent la question d'Égypte, il a le loisir de quémander à Londres, pour prix de son abstention, un petit bénéfice.

Seulement, alors, les patriotes de là-bas auront le loisir de penser que l'augmentation de la flotte Allemande, si vivement réclamée par le petit-fils de Victoria, a pour objet, non pas de contrebalancer l'hégémonie maritime de la Grande-Bretagne, mais au contraire, d'offrir un appoint à la flotte Anglaise pour les entreprises dans lesquelles l'Empereur Guillaume aurait une part d'associé.

Quoi qu'il en soit, aucune abstention ne peut faire que la question d'Égypte ne s'impose à l'attention des Gouvernements. Si la triple alliance s'en désintéresse, la double alliance, qui se suffit à elle-même, reste vigilante.

No. 20.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 9. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, February 13, 1900.

I RECEIVED a message late last night from the Sultan, in which His Imperial Majesty referred to the rumours which had reached him respecting the alleged proposal to withdraw some or all of the British troops from Egypt, and to garrison that country with Italian troops instead. This report His Imperial Majesty said had reached him from various sources.

The Sultan went on to remind me that he had not only often expressed his sympathy with England in the present crisis, but that he had even offered to send, if necessary, troops from Egypt or from Turkey if that were possible, to fight in South Africa. He said that his confidence in England was complete, and that he was anxious that no other Power should take part in any negotiations respecting Egypt. In view, however, of the persistence of the rumours above referred to, His Majesty asked me to communicate to your Lordship the following proposal:—

He proposed that troops should be raised in Egypt to replace the British troops there, should it become necessary to withdraw these. The newly-raised regiments should be officered by Turks and Englishmen. The administration of the country should remain, as heretofore, in the Khedive's hands. Finally, His Majesty begged that the utmost secrecy might be observed with regard to this proposal.

It is probable that the Sultan will receive me next Friday after the Selamlik.

No. 21.

Sir H. Rumbold to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 31.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February 10, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the text and translation of an Ordinance issued by the Austro-Hungarian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and dated the 31st ultimo, giving the assent of the Austro-Hungarian Government to the prolongation of the jurisdiction of the Mixed Courts in Egypt for a further period of five years, namely, until the 1st February, 1905.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE RUMBOLD.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Ordinance by the Austro Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, of January 31, 1900, in regard to limiting the jurisdiction of the Imperial and Royal Consular Offices in Egypt, and to the partial transfer of this jurisdiction for a further period of five years to the Mixed Courts in that country.

(Translation.)

WITH the assent of His Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty, and with the agreement of the Governments of the two States, it is decreed, in virtue of section 17 of the Law of the 30th August, 1891 (Reichs-Gesetz Blatt No. 136), and of section 17 of the Hungarian Law No. 31 of the year 1891:—

That the Regulations in regard to limiting the jurisdiction of the Imperial and Royal Consular Courts in Egypt, and the partial transfer of this jurisdiction to the Mixed Courts of that country, instituted by Imperial Ordinance of the 18th December, 1875 (Reichs-Gesetz Blatt No. 153), and by Ordinance of the Hungarian Minister of Justice of the 5th January, 1876, No. 491, and kept in force until the 1st February, 1900, by Imperial Ordinance of the 28th January, 1899 (Reichs-Gesetz Blatt No. 16), and by Ordinance of the Hungarian Ministry of Justice of the 1st February, 1899, No. 7701 (Rendeletek Tara No. 42), shall remain in force for a further period of five years, namely, until the 1st February, 1905.

Further, the penal jurisdiction over Austrian and Hungarian subjects in respect of the offences designated in the newly-compiled section 9 (Articles 293–301) of Title III of the Egyptian Mixed Penal Code (fraudulent and simple bankruptcy, and other offences connected with bankruptcy) shall for the same period of five years, beginning from the 1st February, 1900, be transferred to the Mixed Courts instituted in Egypt, and these offences shall be withdrawn from the penal jurisdiction of the Imperial and Royal Consular Courts in Egypt.

If, however, on the day when this Ordinance comes into force, such criminal cases are already in process before the Imperial and Royal Consular Courts in Egypt, they shall retain in regard to those cases the full jurisdiction which they have hitherto exercised.

The present Ordinance comes into force on the 1st February, 1900.

(Signed) GOLUCHOWSKI.

Vienna, January 31, 1900.

This Ordinance is hereby published, in accordance with section 18 of the Law of the 30th August, 1891 (Reichs-Gesetz Blatt No. 136).

(Signed) SPENS.

No. 22.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 11.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February 14, 1900.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 13th instant, I request that you will convey to the Sultan the best thanks of Her Majesty's Government for his friendly message.

You should inform His Majesty that Her Majesty's Government have made no proposals whatever with regard to Egypt to the Italian or any other Government, that they believe it to be for the Sultan's interest that no change should be made there, and that they have no intention of withdrawing the British force.

No. 23.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 68.)

My Lord, *Paris, February 14, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Chamber of Deputies at yesterday's sitting adopted the Bill prolonging for another period of five years the existence of Mixed Tribunals in Egypt.

An account of M. Delcassé's speech introducing the measure, extracted from the "Journal Officiel" of this day, is herewith inclosed.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 24.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 22.)

My Lord, *Cairo, February 7, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Circular note addressed by the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Representatives of the Powers in Egypt, submitting for approval a draft Decree, in which it is proposed to increase the number of foreign Judges in the Appeal Court of the Mixed Tribunals from seven to nine, by the addition of a Greek Judge, and another to be selected from the Judges of First Instance belonging to the following nationalities: Belgium, Denmark, Spain, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and Norway, which countries he will represent in a collective capacity.

This question has been for a long time under consideration, and the present draft Decree is a modification of a Decree submitted in May 1890, with regard to which no decision was come to, as the proposals in question were then put forward in connection with other points which were, for various reasons, objectionable.

I am of opinion that the proposal is one which in its present form may be accepted by Her Majesty's Government, and there is reason to believe that the assent of the other Governments interested will be obtained. I should add that the proposed arrangement does not effect any practical change in present arrangements, as the two Judges in question are already sitting in a provisional character.

Boutros Pasha draws attention to the fact that all the Powers interested have agreed with the Egyptian Government that there shall not be two Judges of the same nationality in the Court of Appeal. It is true that there are at the present time two "Juges suppléants" of French nationality attached to the Court, but there also exists a specific agreement that when one of these retires his place shall not be filled up. Article 4 of the old draft Decree, which was introduced solely in consequence of the temporary presence of these two Judges of identic nationality, has, therefore, been omitted in the draft Decree now submited for approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

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* Not printed.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

Boutros Ghali to Viscount Cromer.

(Circulaire.)

Milord, *Caire, le 5 Février*, 1900.

PAR une Circulaire en date du 10 Mai, 1890, No. 365, son Excellence Zoulfikar Pacha soumettait à l'assentiment des Puissances un projet de Décret comportant des modifications à introduire dans le Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire pour les procès mixtes en Égypte.

Ces modifications tendaient à porter à neuf le nombre des membres étrangers de la Cour. A cet effet la Circulaire proposait d'accorder d'une part à la Grèce à titre exceptionnel un siège de Conseiller par la nomination à titre définitif du Conseiller Grec siégeant actuellement à titre personnel; et d'autre part, d'attribuer le neuvième siège à l'un des Juges de Première Instance appartenant à l'une des Puissances ci-après : Belgique, Danemark, Espagne, Pays-Bas, Portugal, et Suède-Norvège.

Ce Décret n'ayant pas encore réuni l'assentiment de tous les Gouvernements intéressés n'a pu être promulgué. Mais il se trouve, en quelque sorte, avoir reçu son exécution. En effet, le Conseiller Grec continue à occuper son siège et le neuvième siège de Conseiller a été créé dans les conditions prévues par le projet dont s'agit et attribué à un Magistrat de nationalité Belge.

Vous jugerez sans doute comme moi, Milord, qu'il y aurait avantage à régulariser cette situation de fait en la consacrant par un texte législatif. Le Gouvernement se bornerait uniquement dans le nouveau Décret à rendre définitive la création de deux sièges de Conseiller, auxquels il devra être pourvu, en cas de vacance, dans les conditions indiquées précédemment.

Quant aux dispositions accessoires édictées par le projet de Décret annexé à la Circulaire précitée du 10 Mai, 1890, j'estime qu'elles peuvent être émises sans inconvénient, dans le nouveau Décret. Il me paraît, en effet, superflu, puisque toutes les Puissances intéressées sont d'accord avec le Gouvernement Égyptien sur ce point, de mentionner qu'en aucun cas il ne pourra y avoir à la Coue deux Conseillers appartenant à la même nationalité, et d'édicter une disposition ayant un caractère en quelque sorte transitoire, et ne visant que la présence, tout à fait temporaire, des deux Conseillers de même nationalité siégeant actuellement à la Cour. Par suite, il n'y a plus lieu de citer l'Article 1er dans le nouveau texte.

C'est dans cet ordre d'idées que le Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Khédive a préparé un projet de Décret dont j'ai l'honneur de vous remettre ci-joint deux exemplaires, et je me plais à espérer que vous voudrez bien me prêter votre obligeant concours pour que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique y donne son adhésion.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) BOUTROS GHALI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Draft Decree.

NOUS, Khédive d'Égypte,

Vu le Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire pour les Procès Mixtes en Égypte;

Avec l'assentiment des Puissances qui ont adhéré à la Réforme Judiciaire;

Sur la proposition de notre Ministre de la Justice et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres;

Décrétons:

Article 1er. Les Articles 3 et 5 du Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire pour les Procès Mixtes en Égypte sont modifiés comme il suit:—

Article 3. Il y aura à Alexandrie une Cour d'Appel composée de treize Magistrats—quatre indigènes et neuf étrangers—dont huit appartiendront, chacun, à la nationalite d'une des Puissances ci-après: Allemagne, Autriche-Hongrie, France, États-Unis d'Amérique, Grande-Bretagne, Grèce, Italie, et Russie.

Le neuvième appartiendra à la nationalité de l'une des Puissances suivantes: Belgique, Danemark, Espagne, Pays-Bas, Portugal, et Suède-Norvège.

Il sera toutefois loisible au Gouvernement Égyptien de nommer un cinquième Conseiller indigène.

L'un des Magistrats étrangers présidera sous le titre de Vice-Président et sera désigné de la même manière que les Vice-Présidents des Tribunaux.

Les arrêts de la Cour d'Appel seront rendus par huit Magistrats, dont cinq étrangers et trois indigènes.

Article 5. La nomination et le choix des Juges appartiendront au Gouvernement Égyptien; mais, pour être rassuré lui-même sur les garanties que présenteront les personnes dont il fera choix, il s'adressera officieusement aux Ministres de la Justice à l'étranger et n'engagera que les personnes munies de l'acquiescement et de l'autorisation de leur Gouvernement.

Toutefois, en ce qui concerne le neuvième Conseiller prévu par l'Article 3, il sera nommé par le Gouvernement Égyptien sur la proposition de la Cour qui aura à lui présenter un candidat choisi parmi les Juges de Première Instance appartenant à la nationalité de l'une des Puissances ci-après: Belgique, Danemark, Espagne, Pays-Bas, Portugal, et Suède-Norvège.

Au cas où le Magistrat proposé ne serait pas agréé par le Gouvernement, la Cour aura à lui présenter un nouveau candidat.

Article 2. Notre Ministre de la Justice est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

No. 25.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 23.)

My Lord, *Cairo, February* 7, 1900.

IN my despatch No. 9 of the 18th ultimo I had the honour to reply to the questions raised in your Lordship's despatch No. 10 of the 9th ultimo, with regard to the admission of a permanent Greek Judge in the Appeal Court of the Mixed Tribunals.

I subsequently informed your Lordship by telegraph that after communication with the French Consul-General and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I was able to modify the opinion I had expressed as to the difficulties which might be anticipated from French opposition, and as a result of these negotiations the Egyptian Government have now issued a draft Decree to which the assent of the Powers is invited, proposing to add two additional Judges to the Court of Appeal, one of Greek nationality and another representing Belgium, Denmark, Spain, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and Norway, in a collective capacity.

A copy of this draft Decree with an explanatory Circular from the Minister for Foreign Affairs is inclosed in my despatch No. 22 of to-day's date, in which I have recommended it to the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CROMER.

No. 26.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 50. Secret.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 14, 1900.

I THINK it right to repeat to your Lordship the following story, which, however chimerical it may appear, is not out of keeping with some of the Sultan's most marked characteristics. It was told to Mr. Block, under the seal of secrecy, by Mehemet Faik Bey, a grandson of Mehemet Ali, residing near Constantinople. According to this story, Abdul Huda, a fanatical Sheikh, in the close confidence of the Sultan, has been instructed by the latter to prepare a pamphlet for distribution among the faithful throughout the world, declaring that the sole and universal Caliphate is vested in His Imperial Majesty, and anathematising and excommunicating all Moslems who should dare to look to any other Caliph.

Mehemet Bey claims to have seen with his own eyes the letter of instruction addressed to Abdul Huda, and he states that it appears from the letter that the Sultan has been moved to take this step by a report from Mukhtar Pasha, bringing to his knowledge the elaborate scheme of the "Shems ul Islam," a Turkish revolutionary society, for the establishment of two independent Mussulman federations under the

Caliphate of the Khedive of Egypt, the one embracing Syria, Arabia, and Mesopotamia, and the other Egypt, the Soudan, Tripoli, and Tunis. Two maps, drawn up with English and French assistance, are stated to have accompanied the report, and the Sultan has even been led to believe, it seems, that Lord Cromer has given his sanction to this extravagant conception.

Mehemet Bey considered that the pamphlet, which was already in an advanced state of preparation, might exercise a dangerous effect on the Mecca pilgrims to whom it could so easily be distributed, and that it might lead the Mussulmans of all countries to rally round the Sultan and to apply the injunction of the Koran "when there are two Caliphs, slay the more recent."

Mr. Block was able to convince his informant of the absurdity of any suspicion falling upon Lord Cromer in the matter, but Mehemet Bey thought the Sultan would not be so easily persuaded.

Whatever truth there may be in the alleged machinations of the "Shems ul Islam," there can be no doubt that the Sultan believes in the existence of influences in Egypt and elsewhere hostile to his Caliphate, and that he is constantly engaged in the task of combating them. As bearing on this point I may mention that Mr. Block has recently received the confidences of one, Selim Pasha, the editor of an Egyptian paper called the "Fellah," who spoke pretty freely of the pan-Islamic intrigues now prevalent at Yildiz. Selim Pasha admits that he is in the pay of the Palace, with which during his stay at Constantinople he has been in close and daily communication, but as a Christian he professes to desire the maintenance of British rule in Egypt.

He told Mr. Block that he has noticed the marked recrudescence of fanaticism among the persons surrounding the Sultan; that the latter has been led to fear the Khedive and the Grand Shereef of Mecca as possible candidates for the Caliphate, and half believes that England will support the aspirations of one of them in this direction, and extend her power over the Holy Places in the Hedjaz. To defeat this tendency the Sultan is working in Egypt, Afghanistan, and even India in the interest of his sole Caliphate. He is seeking to attach Sheikh Senoussi to his cause, he receives addresses from Egyptian officers, and he secretly favours the mutiny of the black troops in the Soudan.

Selim Pasha added that he was returning very shortly to Egypt, and would willingly tell all he knew to a person, whom he named, employed by Lord Cromer.

I am sending his Lordship copies of Mr. Block's reports on which this despatch is founded. He will be in a position to judge whether any value is to be attached to Selim Pasha's utterances. I have mentioned them to your Lordship only because they bear out the impression which I have received of the Sultan's extreme sensitiveness on the question of his Caliphate and of the efforts which he is making to confirm it.

I have not heard from any other source that the Sultan is in any way involved in the troubles in the Soudan, but from various rumours which have reached me, though for the most part vague and indefinite, there is reason to believe that a strong pan-Islamic movement is on foot which, under given conditions, might assume unpleasant proportions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 27.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 53. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 14, 1900.

I HAVE little to add to my telegram No. 9 of the 13th instant, embodying a message from the Sultan with regard to the rumoured withdrawal of British troops from Egypt. The rumours in question had been set on foot, the Sultan's First Secretary said, by the French press, which at first suggested the employment of Italian troops to fill the vacancy. A German newspaper had then pointed out that German or French troops would be equally available for the purpose, and in this way the French press had been led to take up the idea that Germany might favour the employment of French troops. The French Government had followed suit, with the result that other countries as well had been induced by them to take the matter up, as was shown by the fact that the Dragomans of several Embassies, including the Russian, had called to inform Tahsin

Bey that British troops were being withdrawn to make way for Italian or other troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 28.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Viscount Cromer.

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 27, 1900.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 22 of the 7th instant, inclosing a Circular from the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs, submitting for approval a draft Decree, in which it is proposed to increase the number of foreign Judges in the Appeal Court of the Mixed Tribunals from seven to nine by the addition of a Greek Judge, and another to be selected from the Judges of First Instance belonging to Belgium, Denmark, Spain, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Sweden and Norway, which countries he will represent in a collective capacity.

I request that your Lordship will inform Boutros Pasha in reply that this proposal is accepted by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 29.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 34.)
My Lord, *Cairo, February* 20, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship my Annual Report on the progress made in the various Administrative Departments of the Egyptian Government during the year 1899. The affairs of the Soudan are treated in a separate despatch.

Accounts of 1899.

The accounts of 1899 show the following results:—

	£ E.*
Revenue	11,415,000
Expenditure	11,013,000
Surplus	402,000

The revenue reached the highest figure yet recorded since the British occupation commenced. Customs, railways, stamps, the post-office—in fact, all the heads of revenue which increase with the growing prosperity of the country—show a satisfactory degree of expansion and elasticity.

Two large items are included on the expenditure side of the account, viz:—

	£ E.
Conversion of the Debt Economies	265,000
Paid to the General Reserve Fund	759,000
Total	1,024,000

On the other hand, a sum of £ E. 216,000 figures on the revenue side of the account, being the contribution which it was arranged some while ago with the Commissioners of the Debt, should be paid from the General Reserve Fund to make good the loss incurred by reducing the land-tax.

It is perhaps desirable that I should explain somewhat further the meaning of these remarkable figures. They mean that an artificial system of finance, which originated under circumstances long since obsolete, obliged the Egyptian Government to take from the pockets of the taxpayers in 1899 a sum of no less than £ E. 1,210,000—or, if the surplus really at the disposal of the Egyptian Treasury be excluded, £ E. 808,000—more than was necessary to bear the total charge both of interest on the debt and the cost of administration.

* £ E. 1 = 1*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

Many instances may be cited of Governments whose finances are, or have been, in a prosperous, and others of Governments whose finances are, or have been, in an embarrassed, condition. Egypt, so far as I know, is an unique example of a country, the financial position of which is extremely prosperous, but which is debarred by International Agreement from benefiting to the full extent possible from its own prosperity. Year by year, as the large sums now accumulating in the hands of the Commissioners of the Debt grow in amount, the anomalies—to use no stronger term—of the present system become more and more striking, and more and more injurious to those in whose interests it was, in the first instance, presumably created. It is difficult to believe that such a system will be allowed to continue for an indefinite period.

General Reserve Fund.

On the 31st December, 1898, the General Reserve Fund showed a balance of £ E. 3,617,000.*

As the net result of, on the one hand, the sums received from the Egyptian Treasury, and, on the other hand, the money paid for the execution of public works, &c., the General Reserve Fund, on the 31st December, 1899, showed a credit balance of £ E. 3,523,000. Of this amount, £ E. 2,182,000 has been pledged for expenditure of different descriptions, thus leaving an unpledged balance of £ E. 1,341,000. This figure, I may observe, is still £ E. 541,000 in excess of the sum (£ E. 800,000) laid down by a recent International Agreement as the minimum below which the unpledged balance of the General Reserve Fund is not to be allowed to sink.

I have already stated my opinion of the system which permits of this large accumulation of money. I now wish to guard myself against it being supposed that I in any degree consider the Commissioners of the Debt as being responsible for its defects. Such is very far from being the case. On the contrary, I willingly recognize that the judgment and liberality shown by the Commissioners in disposing of the large sums at their command have prevented the system from being so injurious to the interests of the country as, under less capable management, it might easily have become.

The Special Reserve Fund.

The Special Reserve Fund is wholly at the disposal of the Egyptian Government. At the close of 1898, making allowance for expenditure already authorized, but which had, at that time, not been incurred, it showed a deficit of £ E. 92,000. The net result of the financial transactions of the past year is that on the 31st December, 1899, the Fund showed a credit balance of about £ E. 300,000. Expenditure amounting to £ E. 57,000, which will eventually be charged to this fund had, however, already been authorized but not yet incurred. Deducting this sum, the fund showed a credit balance at the commencement of the current year of £ E. 243,000.

Conversion Economies.

Up to the 31st December, 1898, a sum of £ E. 3,105,000, representing the Conversion Economies, had been invested by the Commissioners of the Debt. On the 31st December, 1899, the amount invested was £ E. 3,565,000. The fund was increased, therefore, during the year 1899, by £ E. 460,000, representing (1) the difference between the amount of interest on debt paid by the Egyptian Treasury, and the amount received by the bondholders; (2) the interest on former accumulations.

This money, being invested in Egyptian stock, is not wholly unproductive. In fact, as I have pointed out on previous occasions, these accumulations act as a sinking fund, though one of a very expensive and objectionable nature. In the first place, the large sums bought annually by the Commissioners of the Debt create, to some extent, an artificial price. In the second place, as the sinking fund grows, it must, by an automatic process, obviously tend more and more to nullify its own effect. On the whole, it may be said that, inasmuch as the Commissioners of the Debt have no power to utilize, for the benefit of the country, the large sums standing to the credit of this fund, the system is more hurtful and less, financially speaking, justifiable than that under which money is allowed to accumulate in the General Reserve Fund.

* This, with the exception of a small cash balance, represents the amount actually invested, not the real market value of the stocks.

The Egyptian Debt.

On the 31st December, 1898, the total amount of the Egyptian Debt was 103,372,000*l.*, of which 7,048,000*l.* was held by the Commissioners of the Debt, thus leaving 96,324,000*l.* in the hands of the public. During the past year, debt to the extent of 323,000*l.*—principally Domains and Daïra—was paid off. On the 31st December, 1899, the total amount of the debt was 103,049,000*l.*, of which 7,494,000*l.* was held by the Commissioners of the Debt, thus leaving 95,555,000*l.* in the hands of the public.

The interest charge, which, on the 31st December, 1898, stood at £ E. 3,872,000, was reduced by £ E. 10,000 during the year 1899. On the 31st December, 1899, it stood at £ E. 3,862,000.

Estimates for 1900.

Mr. Gorst's Memorandum, which was recently published, deals so fully with the Estimates for 1900 that I need do little more than give the figures. They are as follows:—

Revenue.

	£ E.
Ordinary	10,164,000
Contribution from the Reserve Fund to make good reduction in the land-tax	216,000
Total	10,380,000

Expenditure.

	£ E.
Ordinary	9,789,000
Conversion economies	265,000
Portion of Reserve Fund to be paid to the "Caisse de la Dette" ..	326,000
Total	10,380,000

As compared to the Estimates of 1899, provision has been made for a diminution of revenue amounting to £ E. 250,000 on account of irrecoverable land-tax,* and £ E. 100,000 on account of railways. In both cases the reduced estimate is due to the loss anticipated by reason of the failure of the last Nile flood.

On the expenditure side of the account provision is made for a net charge of £ E. 417,000 on account of the Soudan. Of this sum, £ E. 134,000 is due to civil, and £ E. 283,000 to military expenditure.

Mr. Gorst, after alluding to the possibility of another outbreak of plague, and to the consequences likely to result from the low Nile, makes the following remarks, with which I beg to express my entire concurrence:—

"It might at first sight appear that, from a purely financial point of view, it would have been more prudent to frame a Budget showing a certain margin of revenue over expenditure. Such a result, however, could only have been attained by measures of economy which would have seriously checked the development of the country and caused grave inconvenience to various branches of the Administration. The loss of revenue is a purely temporary incident due to the exceptional circumstances of the year, and the financial stability of the Government is in no way affected thereby. There would, therefore, be no justification for the adoption of any such course."

Up to the present time it has been the custom not to collect the land-tax on sharaki, or unirrigated land. In practice, no land which yielded a crop was exempted from taxation. The result of this system was that little inducement was held out to the cultivators to irrigate by their own exertions land which, under ordinary circumstances, would be irrigated by the overflow of the Nile, but which, owing to the failure of the flood, was left dry in a year of drought. In 1888, when the circumstances were somewhat similar to those existing at present, the area irrigated by water taken from wells was very limited in extent. The reason was that, inasmuch as the land could not, in many cases, stand both the tax and the expense of digging a well—which in years of drought must obviously be considerable, owing to the unusual depth to which excavation is necessary—the cultivators did not think it worth while to make an effort, and the land was left uncultivated. The same remark applies in some cases to the use of sakias (water-wheels). Many cannot be

* This is, of course, exclusive of the figure of £ E. 216,000 which appears in the statement given above.

used in years when the water is very low, without incurring a considerable risk of overworking the cattle. The cultivators often thought that the crop they would be likely to raise, burthened, as it was, by the land-tax, did not compensate for the risk.

Since last October a new system has, for the first time, been adopted. The Government notified to the public that, in the case of lands which had not been inundated, owing to the failure of the flood, no tax would be levied if a crop were raised by means of well irrigation. This fiscal measure is so simple and so obviously unobjectionable that the only cause for surprise is that it was never adopted before. It benefits the cultivators, and it to some extent relieves the Government Treasury, for without the wells there would be no crop, and, therefore, no payment of taxes, whilst if the wells are constructed, the Treasury gains, indeed, no direct benefit from the receipt of taxes, but the risk is, at all events, to some extent obviated of having to pay for relief works in order to employ those who, having lost their crops, have no other means of subsistence.

The measurements of the sharaki lands in the districts where well cultivation is possible have not yet been completed, but in the part which has already been measured the area irrigated from wells is 18 per cent. of the sharaki area. Of this, part is irrigated from sakias, and the rest from wells which have been specially dug this year. I may mention that a sakia with its full complement of cattle and labourers will irrigate from 5 to 6 acres. Enough water can be lifted with "shadoofs" by hand from a well of average depth to irrigate about 3 acres.

Summary of the Financial Situation.

The main facts of the financial situation may be thus summarised:

1. The accounts for 1899, after paying £ E. 1,024,000 to the "Caisse de la Dette" on account of the Conversion Economies and General Reserve Fund, and after meeting an expenditure, civil and military, for the Soudan, amounting to £ E. 422,000, show a surplus of £ E. 402,000.

2. At the commencement of the current year, £ E. 3,523,000 stood to the credit of the General Reserve Fund, of which £ E. 2,182,000 was pledged to expenditure of various descriptions, leaving an unpledged balance of £ E. 1,341,000.

3. The accumulated Conversion Economies amount to £ E. 3,565,000.

4. The Special Reserve Fund, after deducting £ E. 57,000 for expenditure authorized, but not yet incurred, shows a credit balance of £ E. 243,000.

5. Deducting a sum of 7,494,000*l.*, which is held by the Commissioners of the Public Debt, the outstanding capital of the Funded Debt of Egypt amounts to £ E. 95,555,000. There is no floating debt.

6. After making allowance to the extent of £ E. 350,000 for loss of revenue by reason of the low Nile, the Estimates of revenue and expenditure for 1900 balance, the figures on either side of the account being £ E. 10,380,000. The facts and figures stated above are sufficient to show that the Egyptian Treasury is in a strong enough position to meet any further temporary loss which may, with any degree of probability, arise from the same cause.

Indebtedness of the Fellaheen.

I have in previous Reports dwelt fully on this important and difficult question. I need here only recapitulate so far as to say that in 1896 the Egyptian Government advanced £ E. 10,000 in small sums to the cultivators. This measure was purely tentative and experimental. It was never intended that the Government should embark seriously on a field of enterprise which can more suitably be left to private individuals and institutions.

The experiment, however, was sufficient to show both that the Fellaheen would willingly avail themselves of whatever facilities could be offered for borrowing at a low rate of interest, and that the practical difficulties in the way of recovering the principal and interest on a number of small loans, though considerable, were not insurmountable.

The next step taken was to induce the Egyptian Crédit Foncier to lower the minimum amount of its advances to £ E. 100. This measure was practically unproductive of result, the minimum being still too high to meet the requirements of the mass of the borrowing classes.

The establishment of a National Bank in 1898 enabled a further experiment to be made under circumstances which were more favourable to success. Indeed, one of the main reasons which induced the Government to assent to the creation of this Bank was a desire to facilitate the treatment of the question now under discussion.

The Belbeis district in Lower Egypt was chosen as the field of operations. This district consists of sixty-eight villages. In eighteen of these the land is held by large proprietors. During the spring and early summer of 1899, 1,580 advances, amounting in all to £ E. 4,780, were made by the Bank in the fifty villages where the land is held in small lots. These loans were all repayable in the autumn. The result, I am informed by Sir Elwin Palmer, the Governor of the Bank, "has been thoroughly satisfactory; the whole of the money due in the year was collected by the Government tax-collectors."

I should explain that the debts of the Fellaheen may be divided into two distinct categories. In the first place, it is a very general practice amongst the Egyptian cultivators to borrow small sums in the early part of the year and to repay the loan and interest in the autumn, after the cotton has been sold. In the second place, loans larger in amount and of longer duration are, for various reasons, contracted.

It was obvious that very little would be done to relieve the population generally if the Bank confined its operations solely to the first of these two categories. It is the second class of loan which is most onerous to the population generally, for the rate of interest usually charged by the village money-lenders is so high that the cultivator, having once borrowed money, but too frequently finds himself involved in inextricable financial difficulties as the result of a loan which may originally have been for no very considerable amount of money.

Guided by these considerations, the Bank consented to make 870 loans, amounting in the aggregate to £ E. 26,720, and repayable in five yearly instalments, to the cultivators of the Belbeis district. In all these cases the money was advanced to persons who were already indebted, and who were thus enabled to effect a commutation of their debts on favourable terms.

It is probable that the business has not so far proved sufficiently remunerative to the Bank to compensate for the very considerable amount of trouble and expense involved in dealing with a number of these petty transactions. This, however, is due partly to the fact that the operations have so far been conducted on a small scale. The expenses, which are considerable, owing to the absolute necessity of employing trustworthy and competent supervising agency, will, of course, proportionately decrease as the operations extend.

It was felt, however, that no permanent success could be attained unless the philanthropic considerations which cluster round the treatment of this subject were so far discarded as to place the matter on a sound commercial basis, and thus insure to the Bank an adequate remuneration for their capital outlay. The Government therefore consented to allow the Bank, in addition to 9 per cent., which is the highest rate of interest allowed by law,* to charge a commission of 1 per cent., which will go to their local agents in the villages. It is estimated that, of the 9 per cent. which will be received by the Bank, about 3 per cent. will go in expenses, leaving a net profit of 6 per cent., from which, however, any loss incurred by bad debts will have to be deducted.

This arrangement, I hope and believe, is of a nature to interest the Bank in the extension of the scheme. In fact, the Bank has now consented to extend its operations to three more districts, viz., Miniet-el-Kamh, Mit-Ghamr, and Zifta. £ E. 100,000 will be advanced in these districts, of which £ E. 25,000 will be devoted to loans repayable within the year. The balance of £ E. 75,000 will be lent on mortgage, the loans being repayable in five yearly instalments.

The popularity of the measures recently taken in the Belbeis district is sufficiently shown by the numerous requests which have been received by the Bank from persons residing in districts which have so far not been comprised within the sphere of operations.

I must, however, repeat the warning which I have given on previous occasions when dealing with this subject. The project is still in an experimental stage. Its ultimate success, considered in the light of a possible solution of a very important and difficult economic problem, depends on whether the majority of the cultivating classes, having once been relieved from any very onerous debts which they may have contracted,

* I need hardly say that the provisions of this law are habitually evaded by the money-lenders and their clients.

will or will not use the comparative financial freedom thus acquired to plunge again into operations from which it will be extremely difficult, if not altogether impossible, to extricate them.*

It would be premature at present to express any confident opinion on this point. Such little evidence as is forthcoming, however, rather points to the conclusion that it is erroneous to suppose that the Egyptian Fellah will almost invariably incur debt up to the maximum amount of his credit. I do not doubt that a certain number of cultivators, after they have commuted debt on which they are perhaps paying interest at the rate of 40 per cent., or even more, into one on which they will pay 10 per cent., will use the margin of income thus rendered available in order to contract further debt; but I contend that the present scheme may be considered a success if the number of individuals who adopt this ruinous procedure constitute the exceptions rather than the rule.

Much, indeed, has frequently been written and said about the inveterate improvidence of the Fellaheen population; much also on the impossibility of saving any one, by legislative or administrative measures, from the consequences of his own folly. I am not prepared to deny that there is much truth in the objections which, on these general grounds, have been occasionally urged against the measures now under discussion. The other side of the question is that, until of recent years, the system of government prevalent in Egypt was certainly not of a nature to encourage thrift. Time will assuredly be required to wean the Egyptian population from habits acquired during the long period when but little respect was shown for the rights of property, and when the demands of the tax-gatherer were not merely excessive, but also uncertain and capricious. But any one who has seen much of the Fellaheen population can bear testimony to the fact that they are a very hard-working and industrious race, who are keenly alive to such matters affecting their own interests as they clearly understand.

I know of no reason for holding that, as a class, they are irretrievably thriftless. In any case, no harm can be done by affording them a fair opportunity for shaking themselves free of the debts by which they are but too often burthened, and thus giving them a starting-point for the exercise of economy in the future. Without, therefore, taking a more sanguine view than would be justified by the present facts of the situation, it is permissible to hope that the arrangements now made will be productive of some real benefit to the mass of the cultivators in Egypt.

Should the operations conducted during the present year afford sufficient encouragement in that direction, it is to be hoped that the sphere of petty loan operations will be gradually extended. In that case, as the sums advanced will be locked up, it will be necessary for the National Bank to increase its capital.

Domains Administration.

In 1890, when the Powers approved of the conversion of the Domains Loan, it was stipulated that the economies resulting from this measure should be treated in the same manner as those resulting from the conversion of the other loans, and be paid every year into the economies fund at the "Caisse de la Dette." Inasmuch, however, as the revenues of the Domains Estates have never been sufficient to cover the interest charge, even when reduced by the conversion, the amount paid into the economies fund is part of the annual deficit which the Government has to make good out of its ordinary revenue. Further, the annual deficit of the Domains is increased by the fact that, under existing arrangements, about £ E. 16,000 a-year is devoted out of its ordinary revenue to sinking fund.

A proposal has now been approved by all the Powers and has been embodied in a Khedivial Decree, whereby the sinking fund of £ E. 16,000 will be suppressed, and the annual economies realized by the conversion of the Domains Loan will be paid into the economies fund when the Administration shows a surplus revenue after the payment of its expenses and the interest on the loan. The result of this measure will be to reduce the Domains deficit to between £ E. 10,000 and £ E. 26,000. The arrangement in question further provides that any future deficit shall be a charge on the economies that have accrued in the past from the conversion of the Domains Loan. These

* I should mention that in the Belbeis district, where the experiment has been tried, some applications for loans have been made by cultivators whose credit was already so deeply pledged as to render it impossible to apply any remedial measures. But whenever the security was sufficiently intact to justify a loan, money has been advanced.

economies amounted to over £ E. 200,000 at the end of 1899, and will, therefore, be amply sufficient to meet whatever deficit may arise in the future. On the other hand, the Egyptian Government has agreed not to pay off the Domains Loan for a period of fifteen years from the 1st January, 1900, otherwise than by the produce of the sales of land, or by any annual surplus which may accrue after the full amount of the economies has been paid into the economies fund. This prolongs by about six and a-half years the delay allowed by the Decree of the 29th May, 1893 for the reimbursement of the Domains Loan.

In order to facilitate the liquidation of the property, the Decree also allows the payments for the sales of land to be made half in cash and half in annuities spread over fifteen years.

This arrangement relieves the Egyptian Treasury of any future charge on account of the Domains deficit, and also facilitates the execution of the main policy of the Government in regard to these properties, which is to liquidate them gradually into the hands of the people of the country.

The limitation on the amount of land that can be sold annually, viz., £ E. 262,000, as prescribed at the time of the conversion, has not been changed, so that no additional obstacle is placed in the way of liquidation. The only concession made by the Egyptian Government has been to waive its right to pay off or convert the loan for a further period of six and a-half years. In view of the fact that the total amount of the loan will be very small in 1908, it is problematical whether the Egyptian Government would, in any case, gain any advantage by dealing otherwise with the outstanding balance of the loan.

During the course of the past year, 7,740 acres of land were sold by the Domains Commissioners. The aggregate price at which these lands were sold was £ E. 101,438, being about 14 per cent. in excess of the estimated value. The area remaining unsold was thus reduced to 196,384 acres.

The outstanding capital of the Domains Loan, which originally amounted to 8½ millions, has now been reduced to about 2¾ millions.

Daïra Administration.

The accounts of the Daïra Administration for the year 1899 are not yet closed, but it is known that the results will be approximately as follows:—

	£ E.
Revenue	1,441,000
Expenditure	1,356,000
Surplus	85,000

On the expenditure side of this account are included:—

1. A sum of £ E. 246,000 being interest on the Daïra Debt at 4 per cent.

2. A sum of £ E. 43,000 representing the economies due to the conversion. This sum is paid to the Commissioners of the Public Debt.

The amount of sugar produced during the year was about 59,000 tons. It was principally exported to America. The price realized for this produce was £ E. 608,000.

The rental value of the land steadily increases. In 1899 it was £ E. 657,000, as compared to £ E. 622,000 in 1898.

The capital of the debt was reduced during the year by £ E. 143,700, being the amount received on account of sales of land. The outstanding capital now amounts to £ E. 6,162,800.

Some little while ago, the Superior Council of the Daïra granted a special credit of about £ E. 46,000 to cover the cost of various very necessary improvements on the estates. The greater part of the money has now been spent on the construction of canals, the erection of pumps and buildings, &c.

It cannot be doubted that, for some long time past, the number of employés in the service of the Daïra Administration has been excessive. Some sweeping changes have now been made. The number of permanent employés has been reduced from 1,214 to 582. The economy thus affected amounts to over £ E. 40,000 a-year. Five hundred and thirty-seven temporary employés have also been discharged.

I mentioned in my last annual Report that an arrangement has been made with a Company to take over the Daïra lands in 1905, the Government receiving in payment

the total amount of the Daïra Loan then outstanding. The Government and the Company share equally in the net profit derived from the sale of land. It is to be hoped that, even before 1905, considerable progress will be made in liquidating the situation.

In the meanwhile, the Company now offers to sell lands on payment of one-tenth of the price, before 1905, after which time the buyers will have the option of paying the balance in cash or in fifteen annuities. The principle is sound, and its application will be of advantage to the country. It will facilitate the return of the Daïra lands into the hands of peasant proprietors. It remains to be seen whether these latter will take advantage of the terms now offered to them.

Railways.

The gross receipts of the railways in 1899 amounted to £ E. 2,112,000. This is the highest figure yet attained. After providing for working expenses, and for the payment of certain annuities which constitute a charge on the Railway Administration, a balance of £ E. 1,065,000 remained over. This sum is £ E. 62,000 in excess of the annual interest on the preference stock, for the payment of which the railway revenues are pledged.

There was a very slight diminution in the passenger traffic as compared to 1898. This was wholly due to the fact that, by reason of the outbreak of plague at Alexandria, some of the fairs usually held at provincial towns were suppressed. On the other hand, the goods traffic yielded £ E. 100,000 more than in 1898. It is specially satisfactory to note a steady increase in the transport of coal, machinery, timber, and building material.

One of the chief works undertaken during the year was the strengthening of the Embabeh Bridge. This bridge, originally built for £ E. 80,000, will, before it is completed, have cost £ E. 123,000. The facts connected with this undertaking are, in my opinion, a proof of the bad results often obtained by the adoption of the system of public tender.

Large additions were made to the rolling-stock in the course of last year. Most of the new stock added is, however, to replace old stock which had been condemned. I may mention that four trial heavy engines—exceeding in power the largest locomotives in use on the English railways—were ordered last year, viz., two from Messrs. Dubs, of Glasgow, and two from America.

On the subject of various works now in progress, Captain Johnstone, the Acting President of the Railway Administration, writes to me: "They form but a small part of what is required, and I trust that funds may soon be available for the various urgent services, more especially in connection with the port of Alexandria and the Cairo goods-yard, which the Administration have from time to time brought before the Government for approval." On this point I can only repeat what I said last year. There can be no doubt that railway progress in Egypt has not kept pace with the growing prosperity of the country. What is now required is that a considerable sum, say 1½ millions, should be borrowed, in order to enable the railways to be put into thoroughly good working order. There is no financial objection to the adoption of this course, and I am in hopes that the negotiations, which for some while past have been proceeding on this subject, will eventually lead to a satisfactory result.

The following extract from Captain Johnstone's Report is, I think, of sufficient general interest to justify my quoting it in full. "The number of break-downs," Captain Johnstone writes, "in our stock has been very considerable, although happily they have not led to any serious accidents; this has been partly due to the changes in the workshops (now nearly completed) and to the heavy traffic having necessitated the postponement of repairs, and partly to some of the stock supplied to us having been of inferior quality. Now that the greater part of the new workshops are completed, repairs are being pushed on, while the list of firms allowed to tender for stock is being carefully revised, and the names of firms who have supplied unsatisfactory material are being struck off. I am glad to say that the only locomotives recently supplied by an English firm—Messrs. Neilson, Reid, and Co., of Glasgow—have not given the slightest trouble. These purchased from America in 1898 have also done well, but as they differ in many respects from our standard types, our men have taken some time to learn their peculiarities, and we have not been able to get the best results out of them.

"The action of the Board in ordering locomotives and waggons from America has been criticised. It is due simply to this fact: that American firms, while they are not in a position to tender on more favourable terms than others on our designs, almost invariably offer us engines or waggons built to standard designs of their own at lower prices and in less time; whilst English and other European makers content themselves with tendering on our designs, being, as a rule, not in the habit of manufacturing to standard designs of their own.

"We much prefer adhering to our own standards, but in cases where time and cost are of great importance, such an offer from America cannot be passed by.

"On the other hand, the length of time required at present by competent English firms to execute such orders is prohibitive, and the only order placed for locomotives this year, besides the trial orders referred to elsewhere, went to a Belgian firm, who offered delivery in three and a-half months less than any English firm, and who have done good work for us in previous years.

Keneh–Assouan Railway.

As this line is not mortgaged to the preference bondholders, its revenue and expenditure are not included in the figures given above.

The net revenue in 1899 was £ E. 14,000, as compared to £ E. 4,600 in 1898. The number of passengers carried was 258,000, and the quantity of goods 64,500 tons, as compared to 69,000 passengers and 43,000 tons in 1898.

Captain Johnstone writes in connection with this line:—

"Three new locomotives have arrived and been taken into use—not before they were badly wanted. Thirty waggons and three more locomotives are on their way. These have all been ordered from America, as they were urgently needed, and early delivery could not be obtained elsewhere."

I quote these remarks as I wish to draw the special attention of British manufacturers to the fact that, in many cases of Egyptian contracts, time of delivery is quite as important, indeed sometimes more important, than price.

Agricultural Railways.

209 miles of line were opened for traffic in 1899. The total length constructed since 1897 is 430 miles.

The following Table shows the receipts from passenger traffic:—

Line.	Number of Passengers.	Receipts.	Approximate Average Cost of each Ticket.	Average Distance travelled.
		£		Miles.
Delta Light Railway— 12 months ending September 1899	562,000	12,760	5¾*d.*	8
"Chemins de Fer Économiques"— 12 months ending November 1899	654,000	13,250	5*d.*	12

As a proof that very low rates pay the promoters of these lines, it may be mentioned that when the "Chemins de Fer Économiques" reduced their minimum charge by one-half, the number of passengers in the first month increased by 60 per cent.; the receipts also increased in spite of the reduction.

The lines in the Fayoum Province, which are managed by a purely Egyptian Company, have been too lately opened to permit of any fair comparison being made between them and the older railways. Their receipts, however, already average 142*l.* per mile per annum.

The Delta Light Railway receipts have increased to 245*l.* per mile per annum, and the maximum attained on the "Chemins de Fer Économiques" has reached the figure of 280*l.* per mile.

The rolling-stock of all these lines is as yet quite inadequate to carry the cotton and other goods brought to them. When this defect has been remedied, a proportionate increase in their receipts may be expected. There seems to be no likelihood

whatever of the Government being called upon to pay the guaranteed rate of interest.

There is as yet no indication that these lines compete seriously with the State railways. The earnings of these latter have not diminished, as it was at one time thought probable would be the case.

Agricultural Roads.

The construction of agricultural roads, which are of the greatest use to the country, progresses steadily: 242 kilom. were constructed in the course of last year at a cost of about £ E. 31,000. There are now about 2,250 kilom. of these roads in Egypt.

Telegraphs.

In 1898 the telegraph receipts were abnormally high by reason of the war in the Soudan. In 1899 the only unusual circumstance was the large correspondence consequent on cotton speculation during the autumn months; 50,000 triple-tax "urgent" telegrams were sent over the lines. The gross receipts were about £ E. 59,000, or only £ E. 1,000 less than those of 1898.

I mentioned in my last annual Report that one of the difficulties which stood in the way of establishing telegraphic communication between villages was the heavy initial cost of poles. This difficulty is in a fair way to be solved. There can no longer be any doubt that telegraph poles can be made from trees of local growth; 200,000 trees suitable for this purpose are growing well in Lower Egypt, and a smaller plantation is growing even faster in Upper Egypt. Young men are being trained as foresters.

Mr. Floyer, the Director-General of the Telegraphs, writes to me:—

"The Arabic public does not buy 'urgent' telegrams, but would probably buy largely a cheap slow telegram for which a receipt was given. With cheap poles and cheap clerical labour, it is probable that, in the villages, Arabic telegrams can be sold at a profit at ¼*d.* per word, with address gratis, and a charge of 1¼*d.* per telegram for delivery, recovered from the addressee and retained by the messenger. Success in this matter will form a land-mark in telegraph history."

Port of Alexandria.

The net revenue derived from the port of Alexandria in 1899 was £ E. 133,000, being about £ E. 2,000 in excess of the revenue of 1898.

Only 1,342 steamers, of which 731 were British, cleared from the port during the past year, as against 1,522, of which 734 were British, in 1898. On the other hand, the number of sailing-vessels increased from 906 to 1,278, the principal increase being amongst ships destined for Ottoman ports. The reason both for the diminution in the number of steamers and the increase in the number of sailing-vessels, is to be found in the quarantine measures which, whilst plague existed at Alexandria, were adopted by the Mediterranean Powers against Egypt. As steamers had to spend several days in quarantine, it was found cheaper to send trade in sailing-vessels.

A variety of very useful measures, which I need not describe in detail, are being taken at Alexandria with a view to affording additional quay space, enlarging the ground available for coal and petroleum stores, facilitating the discharge of colliers, &c. These measures will mitigate, but will not altogether remove, the evils of which complaints are now often made. The trade of Alexandria has, in fact, outgrown the port, as at present constituted. A large expenditure of money will be necessary if it is ever to be thoroughly adapted to modern requirements.

Lighthouses.

A substantial reduction in the rates at which light dues were paid was made in 1897, with the result that the gross revenue fell from £ E. 97,000 in 1897 to £ E. 87,000 in 1898. To the extent of about £ E. 2,000 the loss of revenue has now

been recouped by an increase of traffic. In 1899 the gross revenue amounted to about £ E. 89,000.

Considerable sums will be spent during the current year in repairs and improvements to the Mediterranean lighthouses and the buildings adjoining them.

I regret that I am again obliged to report that no progress has been made in arranging for the construction of those lights on the Arabian coast of the Red Sea which are so greatly required in the interests of the shipping trade of all nations. Pending the settlement of this long-standing question, the money which was set aside some years ago for the construction of these lights, is held in trust by the Egyptian Government.

Re-assessment of the Land-Tax.

The very unequal incidence of the land-tax has for long been recognized as a blot on the fiscal system of Egypt. As I pointed out in my Report for the year 1895, it was but recently not unusual to find land rented at from 7*l.* to 8*l.* a feddan (acre) paying 18 piastres (3*s.* 8*d.*) an acre, whilst in the immediate neighbourhood land rented at from 2*l.* to 3*l.* an acre was paying 164 piastres (1*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*).* Without being too sanguine as to the possibility of ever attaining theoretical perfection in the incidence of taxation, it is obvious that such glaring inequalities as that to which I have alluded above are wholly incapable of justification.

The matter attracted the attention of the Commission of Inquiry which sat in 1878–79. The Commissioners laid great stress on the necessity and desirability of equalising the land-tax. For some years subsequent to the British occupation, however, but little or nothing was done in this direction. This was partly due to the fact that many other matters occupied the attention of the Government. Nevertheless, the delay was to a great extent intentional. It was felt that a very difficult and delicate operation, which affected the personal interests of the whole land-owning class of the community, should not be undertaken without a very thorough study of the subject, and especially without allowing a sufficient time to elapse for a body of British officials to grow up who would be intimately acquainted with all the facts of the local situation. In a matter of this sort it appeared wiser to bear for a time with the abuses of a defective system, rather than to run the risk that, as the result of good intentions unaccompanied by sufficiently accurate knowledge, the fiscal relations between the State and the land-owning classes would be disturbed in a manner which might cause, to say the least, grave inconvenience to the former and possibly injustice to some amongst the latter. In the second place, it was obvious that any reductions in the aggregate amount of the land-tax demanded by the Government, even although they might be made on the somewhat empirical system of a *pro ratâ* distribution, would to some extent facilitate the work of equalization when it was eventually undertaken.

Guided by these considerations, the Government postponed the treatment of this subject for some years. It was not till 1895 that it was taken seriously in hand. In that year, Commissions were appointed to assess the rental value of all lands in the country, on which fixed rates of tax were being paid, with a view to obtaining a basis for a more equal distribution of the total amount. The lands belonging to every village in Egypt are sub-divided in the land registers into tracts of various sizes called "hods," and the "hod" was taken by the Land Tax Commissions as the unit of their assessments.

The work of assessment and compilation was completed in 1897, but, after careful consideration, it was not thought advisable, until the Cadastral Survey was further advanced, to readjust the taxes in detail on the basis of the figures of the Land Tax Commission. There was a danger of creating new inequalities, more especially as many "hods" were known to contain land of several different qualities and values, and it was frequently found that the limits of a "hod" were badly defined in the Government registers.

The question of a detailed redistribution of the taxes had, therefore, to be postponed, but the assessment of the Land Tax Commissions afforded a means of locating those parts of the country where the proportion of tax to rent was abnormally high.

In 1898, with the consent of the Powers, a yearly sum of £ E. 216,000 was allotted,

* Some of the worst cases of inequality, such as that to which allusion is made above, have been partially rectified by the reductions made of recent years in the land-tax.

subject to certain conditions, for ten years from the General Reserve Fund, to enable the Government to grant temporary relief to those parts of the country where the assessments of the Land Tax Commissions showed that the tax was too high. When the land tax is readjusted all over the country, this sum of £ E. 216,000 will be borne by lands which are at present insufficiently taxed.

The Cadastral Survey being, at the commencement of 1899, sufficiently advanced in two provinces to allow of the readjustment being taken seriously in hand, proposals were submitted by the Government to the General Assembly, and were finally sanctioned by Khedivial Decree on the 10th May. A few modifications of detail proposed by the Assembly were accepted by the Government and embodied in the Decree. The fact that a measure of such far-reaching local importance became law with, practically, the general approbation of the whole country, is largely due to the skill, judgment, and conciliatory spirit shown by Mr. Gorst, the Financial Adviser of the Government, in his treatment of the points raised by the General Assembly.

The chief points of the measure are the approval of the village area as the unit of measurement, the mean rental assessed in 1895 and 1896 for each village being accepted as the basis for the redistribution of the tax; the division of the lands of each village into new "hods," as nearly as possible of the same quality; and the assessment of a rate of tax for each "hod," equivalent to 28·64 per cent. of the rental value, with a maximum rate of P. T. 164. Special treatment will be accorded to exceptionally inferior holdings, but the arithmetical result will have to work out to the mean rate fixed for the village. The work of assessment is done by Commissions, on which both the Government and the tax-payers are represented. Any land-owner who thinks that his land has been unfairly valued can send in a complaint to an Appeal Commission composed of two Government Delegates and three Notables of the province. As soon as the readjustment in each province is completed, the new rates of taxation will be published, but the rates will not be collected on the new assessment until the commencement of the fifth year after publication.

The work of dividing the lands into new "hods" was begun in the provinces of Sharkieh and Behera on the 15th May, 1899; the work of assessment began on the 3rd June. At the end of the year the work had been completed in 479 villages. The area assessed in these villages was 548,800 acres, and the tax £ E. 584,500. For 379 villages the thirty days allowed for complaints has expired, and in 211 of these villages no appeals have been made. A very strict supervision is exercised by the Ministry of Finance over the assessing Commissions, without in any way interfering with their liberty of action, and it is to be hoped that in the course of 1900 the work will have been completed in Sharkieh and Behera and in part of two other provinces.

Substantial progress has, therefore, been made. The work is under the charge of Chitty Bey, the Controller of Direct Taxes, and the successful manner in which the reassessment has so far been conducted is largely due to the tact and ability displayed by that gentleman.

Paper Currency.

During the course of the year 1898 a National Bank was established, and granted the privilege of issuing promissory notes payable on demand. These notes are not legal tender, but they are received by the Government Treasury in payment of taxes.

The first notes were issued in May, 1899. The circulation reached £ E. 125,000 in the following October, but a large proportion of these notes returned shortly afterwards to the Bank, having been received by the Government Treasury in payment of taxes. On the 31st December, 1899, notes were in circulation to the value of £ E. 60,000. Time will, without doubt, be required before the public become accustomed to the use of notes.

Salt.

A further and probably a final change was, during the past year, introduced into the system under which salt is supplied to the population.

It may not be devoid of interest if I describe briefly the various transformations which this Department of the State has undergone since the era of Egyptian reform set in.

During the early period of Ismaïl Pasha's Khedivate, the Government sometimes undertook the distribution of salt to the population; at times the revenue was farmed. The price of salt was frequently changed, generally in the direction of increasing it.

The results were apparently never satisfactory. The numerous abuses which had sprung up in the administration of the Department attracted the attention of the Commission of Inquiry which sat in 1878–79.* It was then discovered that the salt-tax had practically degenerated into a poll-tax, which was paid equally by those who consumed a great deal of salt, and by those who consumed little or none. Complaints, indeed, were received that in some places, although the purchase-money had been paid, no salt had been delivered for more than a year.

Some years previously, a rough calculation had been made of the population of each village, and, irrespective of any changes which might subsequently have occurred, an exorbitant amount of salt was supposed to be supplied, for which the villagers were obliged to pay whether they required the salt or not. At one time the supply was based on an average consumption of 25 lbs. per head—a figure which was about double the real rate. At a later period, the quantity was reduced to 16½ lbs. per head, but as the price was simultaneously raised in proportion, the change was hurtful rather than beneficial to the people. The practical working of the system was sufficiently indicated by the instructions which were issued to the provincial authorities, who were told that, if the villages did not take the prescribed amount of salt, they "must, as is right, punish the villages by inflicting a fine equal to the price of the salt which has not been taken, while obliging them at the same time to pay for the salt." Redress against the obvious injustice of this system was impossible. The Inspector-General of Upper Egypt, on being asked by the Commissioners to whom the tax-payer could address himself if he had any complaint to make in connection with this or other fiscal matters, replied, with a naïveté arising, without doubt, from long familiarity with a system which he considered both just and natural: "Pour les impôts, le fellah ne peut se plaindre; il sait qu'on agit par 'ordre supérieur.' C'est le Gouvernement lui-même qui les réclame. A qui voulez-vous qu'il se plaigne?"

As a consequence of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry, some of the worst features of the system which had heretofore prevailed were removed during the period of the Dual Control. But it can scarcely be said that the reform of this branch of the Administration was seriously taken in hand until some years later, when Mr. Hooker was appointed Director-General of the Salt Department. Under his auspices the consumption of salt has increased from 33,000 to 50,000 tons, or from rather less than 4 kilog. to rather more than 5 kilog. per head of population. Although the price of salt has been reduced by 50 per cent., the revenue has since 1892—the first year in which it can be truly said that there was a complete absence of direct or indirect compulsion to purchase—been increased by £ E. 25,000. It is still steadily growing. In 1898 the total consumption was 48,880 tons, and the net revenue £ E. 146,500. In 1899 the consumption was 50,140 tons, and the net revenue £ E. 147,710.

It cannot be doubted that one of the main defects of the old Egyptian régime was the excessive interference of the Government, and more especially of the Ruler of the State, in all the affairs of the country. Ismaïl Pasha not only attempted to administer every department of the State in person, he may almost be said to have monopolized the commercial enterprise of the country. He was the largest land-owner, the largest ship-owner, and the largest sugar manufacturer in Egypt. In fact, he was omnipresent. In his endeavours to combine all these separate functions in his own person, he naturally failed to achieve success in any one of them. During the last few years the Egyptian Government, mindful of past errors, has endeavoured gradually and prudently to divest itself of such functions as may more usefully be performed by private individuals, and to concentrate its efforts on duties which, in a more healthy and advanced condition of society, manifestly appertain to the State. In pursuance of this policy, it was thought that the time had arrived when the distribution of salt to the population might with advantage cease to be carried out through Government agency. An arrangement was, therefore, made in the course of last year, under which the Government monopoly was ceded to a British Company. I need not describe in detail the terms of the Concession, which has been already published. It will be sufficient to say that the Government may count upon a net revenue at least equal to that of previous years, whilst at the same time measures have been adopted which will prevent the public from suffering in any degree by reason of the change.

Mr. Hooker has, I am glad to say, become the General Manager of the new

* I was myself a member of this Commission, but I must, at the risk of incurring a charge of egotism, render tribute to the very valuable work it performed, although its labours are now well-nigh forgotten. Historically speaking, the Report of the Commission may be said to have formed the starting-point of most of the reforms which have been subsequently introduced into Egypt.

Company, who have also secured the services of most of the officials formerly belonging to the Salt Department.

This reform is, I venture to think, a step in the right direction. It is sound in principle, and there is every reason to hope and believe that it will prove beneficial to the interests both of the Treasury and of the public.

Fisheries.

In my Report for the year 1897 ("Egypt No. 1 (1898,)" p. 13) I explained the nature of the reform which had then recently been introduced into the Matarieh Fishery Administration. The operations of this Administration embrace Lake Menzaleh, the great sheet of shallow brackish water stretching between Port Saïd and Damietta, and covering an area of 600,000 acres.

Under the system which prevailed prior to 1897, all the fish taken had to be brought to Government stations, and were sold at auction by the Government itself, which frequently bought on its own account in order to keep up prices. Separate accounts were kept with the fishermen, who received 40 per cent. of the proceeds of sales, the balance of 60 per cent. going to the Government. The fishermen were practically compelled to labour continuously. A large establishment, costing £ E. 10,000 a-year, numerous and complicated accounts, and much vexatious interference with the fishermen, were the consequences of this system. I visited Matarieh in the course of the winter of 1898–99, after the reforms to which I am about to allude had been carried out, and I heard enough to convince me that the only cause for regret was that the old system, which gave rise to numerous abuses, had been allowed to exist for so long.

In pursuance of the general policy to which I have already alluded in dealing with the Salt Administration, it was decided in 1897 to adopt a system which would free the fishing industry from excessive Government interference and enable the trade to find its own level. A system of licensing boats engaged in fishing, transport, or fowling, was instituted. Provided the monthly instalments due for licence fees are paid, fishermen are now allowed to catch fish when they like, and to dispose of their catch as they think fit. The scale of licence fees was established on a basis calculated to insure a substantial remission of taxation. At the same time nearly the whole of the costly establishment heretofore maintained by the Government was swept away, the expenditure on this account being reduced from over £ E 10,000 to £ E 1,200 a-year.

As invariably happens in cases of this sort, the change of system encountered, in the first instance, a certain amount of opposition. The only serious argument against it, however, was that, owing to the ignorance and inexperience of the fishermen, they might lie at the mercy of buyers, and might thus not obtain fair prices for their catch. These fears, have fortunately, not been realized. The fishermen combined amongst themselves and appointed agents to deal for them and look after their interests.

A sufficient period of time has now elapsed to enable some judgment to be formed as to the results obtained by the change of system. It cannot be doubted that they have been beneficial.

In the first place, under the old régime the annual income per man of the fishing population certainly did not exceed £ E. 5, whereas at present, taking the value of the annual catch of fish at the same figure as formerly, the income per head of population comes to nearly £ E. 9. The difference between these two figures represents the amount which heretofore was taken from the pockets of the tax-payers and paid into the Egyptian Treasury, either as net revenue or to support an unnecessarily costly establishment. Moreover, looking to the fact that the number of boats increased by 10 per cent. in 1899, as compared to 1898, and to other indications, it is probable that the value of the catch has considerably increased, and that the average income of the fishing population is now in excess of the figure given above.

In the second place, a very good barometer of the popularity of any measures adopted in Egypt may be found in the number of petitions addressed to the British Agency. The facts in this connection are, in the present instance, somewhat remarkable, and moreover, highly characteristic of Egyptian manners and customs.

I should explain that the Matarieh Fishery lies somewhat remote from the rest of Egypt. The spot is rarely visited by any Europeans. The fishing population live quite apart from the ordinary fellaheen, and are in a very backward condition. These circumstances possibly account for the fact that during the long period whilst the old

régime, with all its numerous abuses, lasted, I received no petitions from those interested in the fishing industry at Matarieh. Another, and by no means improbable explanation is that, for various reasons, which will readily occur to those acquainted with Eastern life and systems of administration, the persons concerned were afraid to set forth their grievances. However this may be, it is certain that, directly it became rumoured that the question of reforming the Fishery Administration was under consideration, a steady stream of petitions began to flow into my office. They increased both in number and in vigour of expression until the change of system, which I have described above, was effected in 1897. Since then, they have entirely ceased. Inasmuch as I am confident that any moral restraint which may have been previously exercised to prevent complaints being made, has now been withdrawn, it may reasonably be inferred that the cessation of these petitions constitutes a tolerably convincing proof of the beneficial nature of the change which has been effected.

The fiscal results have also been very satisfactory. In 1896, the last year before the change of system, the gross revenue amounted to about £ E. 44,100, and the expenditure to £ E. 10,500, thus leaving a net revenue of £ E. 33,600. In 1899, the gross revenue was £ E. 31,000, and the expenditure £ E. 1,200, thus leaving a net revenue of £ E. 29,800. Thus the fishing population have obtained relief to the extent of at least £ E. 13,000 whilst the loss to the Government Treasury has only been £ E. 3,800. Moreover, it is certain that this loss will only be temporary. The industry, being freed from vexatious interference, naturally tends to increase. The gross receipts in 1899 were £ E. 4,000 in excess of those of 1898.

The change of system was mainly due to the initiative of Mr. Dawkins. On the whole, it may be said that, amongst the minor reforms undertaken of late years in Egypt, few have produced more satisfactory results.

Some other fisheries in Egypt are still farmed, but, when the existing leases expire, it will, I trust, be found possible to introduce throughout the country the system recently adopted at Lake Menzaleh.

Before leaving this subject, I may mention that, during the course of last year, certain methods of fishing which are considered prejudicial to the production of fish, were prohibited at the request of the Sheikhs and Omdehs of Lake Menzaleh.

Customs.

The gross revenues from customs during the year 1899 amounted to £ E. 2,093,000, being £ E. 53,000 in excess of the revenue of 1898.

The total for 1889 was only £ E. 1,027,000. The revenue has, therefore, doubled in the last ten years.

The outbreak of plague at Alexandria does not appear to have affected trade seriously.

The cost of collection was in the proportion of 3·62 per cent. of the receipts.

Imports.

The value of the imports in 1899 was £ E. 10,909,000, being £ E. 415,000 in excess of the figure for 1898.

The chief items of increase were rice (£ E. 39,000), coffee (£ E. 37,000) coal (£ E. 259,000), furniture, &c. (£ E. 32,000), cement (£ E.70,000), chemical, products (£ E. 43,000), cotton manufactures (£. E. 109,000), and machinery and metals (£ E. 182,000).

The increases were mostly due to increase in quantity, but towards the close of the year the prices of some articles, notably those included under the head of machinery and metals, and coal, rose considerably. The large increase under the former head may be ascribed to the imports of railway and tramway material, and the increase under coal to the greater demand for railway and irrigation purposes, as well as to the rise in price.

The stocks of cereals, maize, wheat, &c., together with the produce of the local crops, appear to have sufficed for local consumption. The imports of cereals were less by £ E. 245,000 than those in 1898.

There was a falling-off of £ E. 13,000 in the tobacco receipts, due chiefly to large sales, under liquidation, of old stocks. The cigarette export trade increased by

nearly 17 per cent. as compared to the preceding year. The total revenue from tobacco was £ E. 1,107,000, of which £ E. 39,000 was repaid as drawback on cigarettes exported.

Exports.

The value of the exports in 1899 was £ E. 15,351,000, showing an increase of £ E. 3,546,000 over 1898.

The cotton exports increased in value by £ E. 3,150,000, and in quantity by 688,000 cantars.* The marked rise in price was due to several causes, the chief of which were a larger demand, a falling-off in the American crop, and, at the close of the year, the fears entertained of a diminished crop in 1900 in consequence of the low Nile. The average tariff rate per cantar for the year was 173 piastres, as compared to 141 piastres in 1898.

Cane sugar, the next most important item of export, shows also a large increase in quantity and in price, the increase in the total value being £ E. 121,000. There were considerable increases also in the exports of beans, onions, and cotton seed, but the latter alone benefited by a rise in price. As a consequence of the reoccupation of the Soudan, the exports of gum arabic increased from £ E. 6,988 in 1898 to £ E. 30,595 in 1899.

The export of eggs, a comparatively new feature in the Egyptian export trade, reached nearly 40,000,000 in 1899, valued at £ E. 43,000.

The principal items of decrease were hides and rags, the quarantine restrictions having practically closed the chief outlets for these articles during several months.

Post Office.

Under the intelligent direction of Saba Pasha, all branches of the postal service continue to develop steadily.

Comparing the figures of the last five years, from 1895 to 1899, both inclusive, I find that the number of post-offices and postal stations has risen from 680 to 887, an increase of 31 per cent.; the articles of correspondence from 22,446,000 to 29,390,000, an increase of 31 per cent.; the parcels from 262,000 to 400,000, an increase of 53 per cent.; and the specie packets and money-orders from 456,000 to 600,000, an increase of 32 per cent.

The Post Office yields a net revenue of over £ E. 20,000 to the Government.

Some minor reforms of a useful character were carried into execution during the past year.

The postage on circulars and articles sent by book-post was reduced from 2 millièmes (½*d.*) to 1 millième (¼*d.*) per oz. The postage on foreign post-cards was reduced from 5 millièmes (1¼*d.*) to 4 millièmes (1*d.*) The commission on foreign money-orders was reduced by 25 per cent. The parcel-post rates on parcels for the United Kingdom, weighing between 7 and 11 lbs., and despatched by long sea, were reduced by 25 per cent. The rates on parcels of the same weight dispatched viâ the continent, were reduced by 17 per cent. An arrangement has been made with the British Post Office whereby insured letters can now be sent between the United Kingdom and Egypt.

The Administration of the Wakfs.

I have on several previous occasions alluded to the defective administration of the Wakfs (charitable and religious trusts), and I have pointed out that, unless some signs of improvement were shown, it might become necessary to adopt some radical measures of reform in order to remove the abuses which have formed the subject of very frequent and legitimate complaint.

It was hopeless to expect that any fresh law, or any one special measure, could suffice to make these abuses disappear at once. Moreover, it was, of course, an essential condition of any reform that there should be no infringement of the law of Islam, to which the proceedings of this Department must necessarily be made to conform. All that could reasonably be asked was that some moderate measures of

* 1 cantar = 98 lbs.

reform should be initiated and steadily applied until beneficial results were gradually produced.

Prior to 1895 no symptom of improvement appeared. In that year, the Financial Department was authorized to exercise a certain amount of interference with a view to organizing the system of accounts, and devising a plan which would render an effectual control over the revenue and expenditure possible.

Since then, slow but steady progress has been made. I am glad to be able to quote the following passage from a Report prepared by Harari Bey, the Accountant-General of the Egyptian Government, to whose energy and perseverance much of the improvement which has been effected, is due:—

"Without," Harari Bey says, "overrating the value of the results obtained in the reorganization of the Wakfs since the intervention of the Finance Ministry, I think that there is a marked improvement in the various branches of the Administration, and that the foundation stones for further progress in the future are firmly laid down. When the material work, resulting from the bad management of the past years, has been satisfactorily finished, other matters of no less importance will be taken in hand, provided that the same liberal ideas prevail in the councils of the Wakfs Administration."

Without entering into great detail, I may mention a few points which would appear to justify these favourable conclusions

In the first place, the accounts are now well kept. Thorough confidence can be placed in their accuracy. The revenue of 1899 was £ E. 229,000, the expenditure £ E. 180,000. There was thus a surplus of £ E. 49,000. After allowing for certain items of extraordinary expenditure, for which special credits have been granted, the reserve fund showed a credit balance of £ E. 32,000 at the close of last year. The revenue for 1900 is estimated at £ E. 216,000, the expenditure at £ E. 184,000, thus showing a surplus of £ E. 32,000.

In the second place, the Wakfs Department administers considerable sums of money which have been left in times past to be expended on the maintenance of mosques, the diffusion of education, and the alleviation of distress amongst the poorer classes of society. It is a notorious fact that, until recently, the wishes of the testators, who originally created the endowments, had been but too often greatly neglected. It is satisfactory to learn that, since 1897, the ordinary budget has been increased by about £ E 20,000 under the following heads:—

	£ E.
Mosques	13,498
Schools	3,641
Charitable institutions	2,429
Total	19,568

In the third place, the arrears of rent due to the Department were reduced in the course of last year from about £ E. 58,000 to about £ E. 20,000.

In the fourth place, one of the worst features of the Wakfs Administration was that beneficiaries could not, without the utmost difficulty, obtain payment of the sums due to them either from the general or the private Wakfs. The sums so due were reduced during the course of last year from £ E. 94,150 to £ E. 36,583.

In the fifth place, I mentioned last year that an attempt was about to be made to deal with "Hikrs." I should explain that "Hikr" is the rent paid to the Wakfs for the use of certain lands which have been ceded in perpetuity. The sum paid is generally so small as to amount to little more than a quit-rent. There are believed to be some 25,000 to 30,000 payers of "Hikr" in Egypt. Manifestly, it was desirable to induce the payers of "Hikr" to commute their annual rent by payment of a lump sum. Good progress has now been made in this direction. The Wakf Administration has assessed the value of 10,039 "Hikrs," representing an annual income of £ E. 6,527, at £ E. 130,540. With this money, land has been, or is about to be, purchased. I may mention that, in order to make the exchange of the "Hikrs" a success, their value was calculated at the smallest possible figure, while the rate of capitalization of the yearly charge was raised to its maximum. The Finance Department agreed to grant full exemption of all registration dues for the deeds connected with the exchanges, and the Department of Justice consented to simplify to the utmost the legal formalities of the transfers, thus saving to the public both time and money.

Much still remains to be done to improve the administration of this Department. At the same time, the facts stated above show that appreciable progress is being made in the right direction, and are of good augury for the future.

The Nile Flood.

The unprecedented failure of the Nile flood constituted by far the most important event of last year. The facts have been fully stated in a recent Note prepared by Sir William Garstin, and published in the Official Journal. It will be sufficient if I state (1) that, on the 16th October, 1899, the Commissioner of Uganda reported that the level of Lake Victoria was 2 feet below the normal; (2) that on the 31st December the level at Assouan was 1·75 metres below the average of previous years; and (3) that on the 15th January, 1900, the discharge at Assouan was 578 cubic metres per second, as compared to 1,146 cubic metres in 1878 and 955 cubic metres in 1889—these two being the worst years of which any trustworthy records exist.

It cannot be doubted that these are facts of considerable gravity. They would have been far more grave had it not been for the improvements effected of recent years in the system of irrigation.

After the failure of the flood in 1877, the area of "sharaki," or unirrigated land, amounted to 900,000 acres. There was a famine in Upper Egypt.* In 1899–1900, although, in Sir William Garstin's words, we have to deal with "the worst flood of the century," the estimated area of "sharaki" land is only from 250,000 to 270,000 acres. This satisfactory result is largely due to the works originated by the late Colonel Ross subsequently to the low flood of 1888.

Again, Sir William Garstin says: "In Lower Egypt, the bad effects of the poor flood were hardly felt, as the large crop of cotton proves. The Barrage justified its existence in a manner never before realized. The work done by this structure in 1899 alone would fully warrant, had no further benefits resulted from its repairs, the amount of money expended on its consolidation. Without it, a large area of land in Lower Egypt would have suffered from want of water, and considerable loss of crop must have resulted."

It is useless for me to write at any length about a situation which may have undergone considerable change before this Report can be published. I may, however, state in general terms what consequences the low Nile probably will, and—which is equally important—what consequences it will almost certainly not produce. I am, of course, assuming that the abnormally low flood of 1899 will not be followed by another of a similar character in 1900.

In the first place, therefore, the low flood will in no way affect the solvency of the Egyptian Government. The finances of the country are now placed on so stable a basis as to be rendered proof against anything but a succession of untoward events, the occurrence of which is so improbable as to be well-nigh impossible.

In the second place there will be no famine. Indeed, I think it highly improbable that the necessity of starting any relief works will arise. I may mention in this connection that the works now going on at Assouan and Assiout afford employment for a large number of the poorest classes in Upper Egypt.

In the third place, the steady progress in various directions, which has been the leading feature of the Egyptian administration during the last few years, can scarcely be said to have received any serious check. There has been no reduction of expenditure. Not one of the minor reforms in course of progress has been abandoned. All that has been done is to postpone for a while action which might, perhaps, otherwise have been taken, in the direction either of fiscal relief or of initiating fresh measures of reform involving additional expenditure.

So far, therefore, it is permissible, without being too sanguine, to take a hopeful view of the consequences which will probably result from the failure of the flood.

On the other hand, it cannot be doubted that nearly five very critical months have to be got over before the Nile begins to rise again next July. During this period there will certainly be a great want of water. Notably the cotton crop will suffer, though the rise in price will, to some extent, compensate for the decrease in quantity. It cannot, at present, be predicted how large an area it will be possible to sow with

* Mr. (now Sir Alexander) Baird stated in a report which he addressed to the Egyptian Government about this time: "It is almost incredible the distances travelled by women and children begging from village to village . . . . . It is not possible to state how many died from actual starvation, for in no instance does the death register show a death by starvation, but I am satisfied that the excessive mortality during the period of the scarcity was caused by dysentery and other diseases brought on by insufficient and unwholesome food. The poor were, in some instances, reduced to such extremities of hunger that they were driven to satisfy their cravings with the refuse and garbage of the streets."

cotton. The facts are altogether without precedent. The experience of former years does not afford any sure indication for enabling a forecast to be made as to the level to which the river will sink in May and June. All that can be said is that full reliance may be placed in the proved ability of the officers of the Public Works Department, who will certainly utilize to the utmost advantage whatever supply of water is available.

The Corvée.

In consequence of the abnormally low Nile, very few watchmen were required to guard the banks during the flood. Only 10,079 men were called out per 100 days. This is the lowest number on record. In 1888, the last year in which the flood bears any resemblance to that of 1899, the figures were 58,788 men per 100 days.

The Nile Reservoirs.

The low Nile, however disadvantageous in other respects, has greatly facilitated the construction of these important works. They have been pushed on with great rapidity.

At Assouan, over 500 yards of the dam from the eastern bank of the river had been completed at the end of the year 1899 to within 2 metres of its full height. Owing to the presence of decomposed granite at some depth below the surface, the foundations of the dam, over a considerable length, had to be carried down to a depth very much greater than had been anticipated.

Foundation excavation has been carried out on the line of the dam over a length of 1,400 yards. The total length, when completed, will be about 1¼ miles. Good progress has also been made with the navigation channel on the western bank.

The completion of the masonry in the deep channels of the river is the most important, as it is the most difficult, of the works in connection with the construction of the dam. Everything depends upon the possibility of staunching the temporary dams and strengthening them against the enormous pressure which they must have to stand when the enclosed pit is unwatered, and when excavation of the foundation is commenced. Much depends upon the nature of the rock at these points. Where decomposed seams of granite are found, the depth of excavation is naturally increased and the difficulty of the work augmented.

At Assiout, the western channel was closed without difficulty, and the foundations of the lock, and of nearly one-fourth of the total length of the weir, were completed before the rising water stopped the work for the season. The lock walls and the piers of the portion completed, were carried up to above the summer level of the river.

The total amount paid to Messrs. John Aird and Co., for works both at Assouan and Assiout, up to the end of 1899, was about 1,080,000*l.*

During the summer months the average number of men employed at Assouan was 10,000, of whom some 900 were European and the rest natives.

At Assiout also, the number in June reached a total of 10,000. Here the Europeans were much fewer than at Assouan, at which place some 800 Italian stone-cutters were used for dressing the granite blocks.

A large quantity of material has been collected for the work of the present season, and, in consequence of the exceptionally low river, good progress at both works is anticipated.

The Barrage.

I mentioned in my last annual Report that, with a view to relieving the pressure on the Barrage, it had been decided to construct two subsidiary weirs down-stream of the work, and further, that the Commissioners of the Debt had granted the credit of £ E. 530,000 necessary for their construction.

Excellent progress was made with these works in 1899. The weir on the Damietta branch was carried right across the river bed, the lock foundations completed, and part of the superstructure built before the arrival of the flood. The total length of this weir is 418 metres, of which 338 metres were executed in 1899.

For the Rosetta weir materials were collected, and the dredging out of the foundations commenced before the end of the year. It is hoped that the foundations of this weir, which will be 500 metres in length, as well as those of the lock, will be completed before the end of the working season of 1900.

The total expenditure upon these works, up to date, has been £ E. 241,856, of which some £ E. 160,000 was expended in 1899.

Drainage.

In the beginning of 1899, the "Caisse de la Dette" granted a sum of £ E. 150,000 for drainage works in Lower Egypt. A further sum of some £ E. 50,000 was expended on similar works from the ordinary budget. This, with the unspent balance remaining over from the end of 1898, gave a total of about £ E. 209,000, available at the commencement of last year. Of this, about £ E. 199,000 was expended in 1899, leaving a balance of some £ E. 10,000 to be carried over for work to be done in 1900.

In all, 80 kilom. of new drains were dug, and 214 kilom. of existing drains were remodelled and enlarged.

The effect of the new drains is very marked, and already lands, in which formerly arrears of taxation accumulated, are beginning to pay off their debts.

Wadi Tumilat.

The Wadi Tumilat is the name of a large tract of country, covering 21,000 acres, in Lower Egypt. It has for a long time past been administered by the Director-General of the Wakfs, the net revenue being devoted to public instruction. The Administration yielded unsatisfactory results. Moreover, the whole area was water-logged, and it became apparent that, unless a considerable sum were spent in improvements, the revenue must gradually diminish, and would eventually disappear altogether. After some rather lengthy negotiations it was settled that the Wakfs Administration should advance a capital sum of £ E. 62,000, and that the Public Works Department should take over the management of the estates for eleven years. £ E. 13,000 was spent on new works during the course of last year. An area of 1,500 acres of new land has already been leased to tenants. When the improvements are completed, it is estimated that the gross revenue, which now amounts to about £ E. 15,700 a-year, will be increased to £ E. 32,000.

The "Sudd" on the White Nile.

On this subject Sir William Garstin writes as follows:—

"An important step, as regards the Nile supply, was taken in 1899. A sum of £ E. 10,000 was placed at the disposal of the Governor-General of the Soudan, for the purpose of removing the great mass of weed which blocks the channel of the Bahr-el-Jebel, between Lake No and Shambe. This work was commenced in December last. Up to the present time, the progress made has been remarkably satisfactory, so much so, that the officer in charge hopes to clear the river by the end of April 1900.

"The primary object of this measure is to open the Bahr-el-Jebel to navigation, and to permit of an examination of the river and the surrounding swamps. When this examination has been made, it will be possible to study the feasibility of closing off all the spill-channels which wander through the marshes, and, by confining the river in one single stream, prevent the present enormous waste of water. Such a study must necessarily involve much time, and the works, if ever carried out, may cost considerable sums of money. The question of increasing the summer supply of the Nile is, however, of such vital interest to Egypt, that the present expenditure is fully justified.

"Whether the fact of merely removing the 'sudd' in the water-way will immediately increase the supply in the river is a question upon which it is hazardous to theorize. It can only be solved by actual experience. Little or nothing is known regarding the effect of the obstruction upon the discharge of the river. A few months' time will, it is to be hoped settle the point."

Water Supply of Alexandria.

For some long while past, well-founded complaints have been made both of the quantity and quality of the drinking water supplied to Alexandria by the Mahmoudieh Canal. Briefly stated, the present situation in respect to this matter is as follows:—

The town is situated at the tail-end of the canal. The water, having been brought through many miles of thickly-populated country, becomes greatly polluted by the time it reaches Alexandria. Owing to irrigation necessities, the supply available in the canal, more particularly during the summer months, is very scanty. In order to maintain the necessary levels, the tail-locks, where the canal enters the sea, have to be kept permanently closed The velocity of the current is, consequently, much reduced, and at times is so imperceptible that the water is practically stagnant. Further, the intake of the Water Company's pumps is badly situated. It is far too near to the town, and is placed on a reach of the canal in which many boats are constantly moored. The presence of these boats tends to foul the water.

Measures for the improvement of the volume and the purity of the water have, for some time past, been under consideration The most important, as well as the most effectual, of the remedies proposed is the removal of the intake of the pumps to a point at some distance up-stream of the town, so as to insure that the water shall be drawn from a comparatively uncontaminated locality. Before finally committing itself to the expenditure involved in the execution of a project of this nature, the Egyptian Government has decided to investigate the question more thoroughly, and to ascertain whether it be not possible to obtain the required supply from subterranean sources, as has been done at Tantah.

With this object in view, trial borings are to be made during the ensuing summer at different points in the northern portion of the Province of Behera. If it be proved that water can be obtained at all seasons, and in sufficient quantity for the needs of the town, deep wells could be sunk, the water could be pumped up, and conveyed through pipes to Alexandria. The necessity for constructing large and costly filter-beds, which are inseparable from any project which involves taking water from the canal, would thus be avoided.

On the other hand, should the borings yield unsuccessful results, the intake of the pumps must undoubtedly be removed from its present site to one further up-stream. Either alternative will entail considerable expenditure, and the whole question will involve long and serious study.

In the meantime, in order temporarily to improve the supply of the town, the Mahmoudieh Canal is to be dredged for a considerable distance above and below the pump inlet. A sum of £ E. 5,000 has been set aside for this purpose in 1900.

Drainage of Alexandria.

The question of providing the town of Alexandria with a good system of drainage has, for a long time past, been under consideration. I explained in my Report for the year 1898 the method which it was proposed to adopt in order to obtain the funds necessary for the execution of this project. I am now able to add that designs and estimates for a portion of the work have been prepared, and tenders invited. There is, therefore, every prospect that before long the construction of the works will commence.

Steam-Engine Service.

This service is still greatly hampered by the want of an effective law for controlling engine proprietors; until such a law is passed, no satisfactory progress as regards the inspection of engines can be made.

169 engine-licences were granted in 1899. 147 boilers were tested, of which 32 were found to be in an unsatisfactory state. Three boiler explosions took place in the course of the year.

The Revenue Survey.

In 1899, the work of this branch of the Public Works Department was confined to the provinces of Garbieh, Menoufieh, and Ghizeh. The triangulation of the Faysum

was completed. The survey of Sharkieh, Garbieh, and Ghizeh is almost completed, while about one-fifth of Menoufieh has been done.

The printing and sale of village maps has been continued, and shows an increase, which it is hoped will grow larger as the people become accustomed to using these maps.

Scientific Operations.

The International Geodetic Congress has consented to allow the base-bar belonging to the Egyptian Government to be verified at the "Bureau International des Poids et Mesures" at Sevres, in 1900, and the bar has been sent to Paris for this purpose.

The Cairo Observatory has been placed under the Survey Department, and Captain Lyons is attempting to bring it more nearly up to the standard of modern requirements. He has installed automatically recording instruments for the continuous registration of temperature, atmospheric pressure and wind velocity; also of earth tremor, by means of a Milne's seismograph. Instruments have been provided for secondary meteorological stations at Assouan, Assiout, the Barrage, and Alexandria.

One of the standard clocks, which was sent to England for cleaning and fitting with electric contacts, has been received, and time-signals can now be given automatically for dropping time balls at Alexandria, Port Saïd, and Suez, as soon as the necessary connections at each place are ready. The observations of terrestrial magnetism are, at present, made in a temporary hut erected at Helouan. It is intended eventually to transfer the Observatory from Cairo to Helouan.

The Geological Survey.

The Sinai Peninsula has been surveyed. The survey of the Fayoum Province and the surrounding desert has also been completed.

Advantage was taken of the excavation in connection with the reservoir works at Assouan, to make a geological examination of the rocks of the first cataract. The numerous specimens collected have been partially named, but little progress can be made until the Geological Museum is completed.

Maps of a very considerable area have been compiled, but have not yet been printed.

The Interior

I have on previous occasions explained the system under which, since 1894–95, the Department of the Interior has been administered. The experience of another year has afforded additional proof that the reforms introduced under the auspices of Nubar Pasha were based on thoroughly sound principles.

The subjoined Table shows that, during the last four years, serious crime has steadily diminished :—

Year.	Total Crimes.	Murders.	Robbery with Violence.
1896	1,866	494	260
1897	1,424	430	378
1898	1,342	414	344
1899	1,253	373	260

The proportion of cases in which conviction was obtained has increased from 73 per cent. in 1896 to 80 per cent. in 1899.

Frontier Province.

For some years past, the ordinary civil law has been in abeyance in the frontier province, which extends from Edfou to Wadi Halfa. Special Tribunals, over which

British and Egyptian officers presided, were instituted. The administration of the province was also conducted by the War Office.

I believe the province to have been, from every point of view, very well administered. At the same time, now that the Dervish power has been destroyed, the reasons for according exceptional treatment to the frontier province no longer exist. The law under which the special Tribunals exercise jurisdiction expires in September next. It will not be renewed. Arrangements are in course of progress which will enable the administration of the frontier province, on the expiry of this law, to be assimilated in all respects to other parts of Egypt. It is probable that no considerable dislocation of the personnel of the province will be necessary.

Hashish.

In 1898, the greater part of the 10,120 kilog. (over 10 tons) of hashish seized by the coast-guard was captured at or near Alexandria, whereas in 1899 only trifling amounts were seized in the same locality. Owing to the ever-increasing vigilance of the Customs and coast-guard authorities, the smugglers were compelled to resort to the more expensive but safer method of landing their cargoes 100 or 200 miles away on the west coast, where they can more successfully cope with the efforts of the Preventive Service.

From Alexandria to the borders of Tripoli is a distance of 240 miles. The population is composed of nomad Arabs, and, in spite of the efforts of the Government to impress upon the Omdehs the importance of setting their faces against contraband, it is manifestly impossible to entirely stamp out so lucrative a traffic.

The method adopted is for a Bedouin to accompany the steamer or schooner to Europe. On return with his cargo, he guides the captain under cover of night to the exact neighbourhood in which his confederates await him. Flash-light signals are interchanged, and in an hour the cargo is landed and buried, to be ultimately passed away, a camel-load or two at a time, until disposed of.

In order to check this traffic, a station has recently been constructed and a camel-corps post established under an officer at Mersa Matrouk, 120 miles west of Alexandria, where an excellent harbour exists.

As stated in my Report for last year, it is almost hopeless to expect that the importation of hashish can be altogether prevented. The most that can be done is to render its acquisition as difficult as possible.

Dr. Warnock's statistics show that of 454 males who were admitted to the Lunatic Asylum in 1899 as insane, 125 were suffering from the effects of hashish. The percentage in this year, viz., 27·5, is, however, slightly lower than that of 1898, which was 28·3.

In Cairo and Alexandria, 902 individuals were sentenced to fines in 1899 for selling hashish, and the establishments of 310 persons were closed.

The difficulties encountered by the police are scarcely less arduous than those of the Preventive Service, the production either of the hashish itself, or of the pipe, being essential to secure a conviction. The public opinion of the lower classes is adverse to the police in this matter, and the maximum penalty only amounts to £ E. 1.

Further, a hashish den cannot be ordered to be closed unless the offender has been convicted three times within a period of six months. A scheme for the modification of this law is under consideration.

Prisons.

On the 31st December, 1899, the total number of persons confined in Egyptian prisons was, 9,221.

During the past two years, the prison population has decreased by no less than 2,464. This decrease has to a large extent been brought about by recent prison legislation; at the same time, the knowledge that prisoners are now called upon to work hard, and that prison life generally is more deterrent than heretofore, has undoubtedly had its effect on the criminal classes. The general prosperity of the country has also without doubt tended to diminish crime.

During the last two years, about £ E. 52,000 has been spent on building prisons. A further sum of £ E. 22,000 will be spent during the current year, mainly on prison hospitals, work-shops, &c. Thus, in a short time it is to be hoped that ample accommodation will exist for all the prisoners in the country. Overcrowding is the main

difficulty against which the prison authorities have had to contend for some years. It may be confidently stated that before long this evil will cease to exist.

A good deal, however, remains to be done before it can be said that the prison system of Egypt is thoroughly satisfactory. The average death-rate, which is 32 per mille, is far too high. At the Tourah convict establishment, the death-rate is considerably higher, and has recently formed the subject of representations from the medical officer in charge, which are now under the consideration of the Government. The system which exists in Egypt of working short-term prisoners on extra-mural labour has, I believe, been condemned by all prison experts. In this, as in many other matters in Egypt, want of money stands in the way of the reformer. Until a few years ago, the prisoners were, in most cases, provided with food by their friends who lived outside the prison. This system was, as I have pointed out in previous Reports, open to many obvious objections. It has now been practically abolished. The prisoners are to a great extent fed by their own earnings. In 1899, the gross earnings amounted to nearly £ E. 22,000. Of this amount, £ E. 11,000 was spent on extra establishments and rations, and £ E. 10,000 on new material. Within proper limits, this system is unobjectionable, but inasmuch as the Government is unable to provide the money necessary to feed all the prisoners as they should be fed, the prison authorities, from no fault of their own, are almost unavoidably driven, in deciding on the sort of labour which shall be assigned to prisoners, to look almost exclusively to its remunerative character. I trust that when the financial situation becomes somewhat easier than is the case at present it will be possible to apply a remedy to this evil.

Slavery.

Captain McMurdo, who directs the Slavery Department, writes to me:—

"I am pleased to be able to report satisfactorily on the work done by the Slavery Department in bringing slave-dealers and kidnappers to justice in 1899. There have been more prosecutions and convictions in that year than there have been for the last five years. This is greatly due to the vigilance exercised by provincial officials and private individuals, who have many times brought to the notice of this Department cases which have come to their knowledge, thus showing the willingness of the people to assist in the repression of slavery. There have been nine cases brought to trial in 1899, and in each case a conviction of one or more of those accused has been obtained two cases are still pending, making a total of eleven cases during the year. The Turkish officials at Jeddah and Yambo have certainly rendered this Department more assistance than they have ever attempted to do before."

Captain McMurdo speaks highly of the assistance he has derived from his native staff.

It will be borne in mind that, on the 21st November, 1895, a Slavery Convention, which took the place of the old Convention of 1877, was concluded between the British and Egyptian Governments. A full account of its provisions was given in my Report for the year 1895 ("Egypt, No. 1, of 1896," pp. 22–24). I need here only say that, under the terms of the new Convention, the jurisdiction in slavery cases, heretofore exercised by courts-martial, was transferred to a special Tribunal composed of five Judges chosen from the Egyptian Court of Appeal, of whom it was laid down that "two at least shall be Europeans."

The new procedure appears, broadly speaking, to have worked well, but in a case which was tried since the close of the year under report, Captain McMurdo is not altogether satisfied with the result. I need not give the whole of the complicated details connected with this case. It will be sufficient for me to say that, towards the close of last year, an Egyptian soldier, who had for fifteen years been a captive in the Soudan, returned to his village in Lower Egypt, bringing seven negro women with him. In company with five other persons, who were accused of acting as his accomplices, he was arraigned before the special Tribunal on a charge of importing and dealing in slaves. Three of the accused were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment. The remaining three were acquitted.

The importance of the case is derived from the fact that some of the women, after their arrival in Egypt, were ostensibly given in marriage. Captain McMurdo fears that marriage may be made a pretence for conducting operations which will, in reality, infringe the Convention of 1895. The point is certainly one which calls for the exercise of watchfulness. The judges of the special Tribunal must naturally decide according to the text of the law, and the evidence which is brought before them, and

it is extremely difficult, under all the circumstances which attend the traffic in slaves, to frame the text of a slavery law in such a manner as to allow no room for the evasion of its spirit.

It is very possible that the present law admits of improvement, but I am of opinion that any attempt to amend it would, for the time being, be premature. It will be better to wait until further experience of its operation in practice has enabled a sound judgment to be formed of the precise nature of the changes which may advantageously be made.

In the meanwhile, steps have been taken to insure the Slavery Department being furnished with competent legal assistance in the preparation of any cases likely to form the subject of criminal proceedings.

Municipalities.

I mentioned in my last annual Report that Municipal Commissions had been organized in some of the towns of both Upper and Lower Egypt. The system appears to have worked fairly well. Mr. Machell, the Adviser of the Department of the Interior, writes:—

"The streets in towns where municipalities exist are well swept and watered; some of the principal thoroughfares are being macadamized; lighting is general; and progress is continually being made in the direction of gradually filling in and reclaiming the most important of the large pools in the immediate vicinity."

No considerable extension of Municipal Government is, however, possible until some system can be devised which will admit of local taxes being imposed on Europeans and natives alike. At Mansourah this difficulty has been solved by the whole of the Europeans concerned voluntarily submitting to the imposition of certain small taxes. But the circumstances which admit of the adoption of this system are exceptional

Medical Administration.

During the past year, Sir John Rogers, who for some years past has rendered eminent services to the Egyptian Government as Director-General of the Medical and Sanitary Department, resigned his position. An able successor has been found in the person of Mr. Pinching.

In the course of the year, 22,894 cases were treated in the Government hospitals, as against 21,676 cases in 1898.

About 357,000 successful vaccinations were made during the year ending the 1st November, 1899, as against 346,000 during the corresponding period in 1897–98. The Vaccine Institute supplies calf-lymph regularly to fifty-three of the principal towns of Egypt, besides sending special consignments to any locality where an outbreak of small-pox may occur.

A new hospital has been completed at Chibin-el-Kom. That at Assiout will shortly be ready for occupation.

The Hygienic Institute, under Dr. Bitter, rendered excellent service during the past year. Bacteriological examinations were made in cases of suspected plague. I am informed that researches are in course of progress on the relation of certain species of mosquitoes to malaria, a subject which has lately attracted a good deal of public attention.

Sanitation.

No step of any special importance in the direction of improved sanitation has been taken since my last annual Report, but some further progress has been made in the work, to which I have alluded on former occasions, of improving the sanitary condition of the mosques, and removing old burial-grounds, which have become a source of danger to public health.

The Plague.

I annex to this Report (Inclosure 1) a very interesting Memorandum prepared by Mr. Pinching, descriptive of the recent outbreak of plague at Alexandria and of the measures which were taken to prevent the spread of the epidemic. The manner in

which this difficult question was treated reflects the greatest credit on the authorities of the Sanitary Department. So far as can at present be judged, they appear to have been successful in stamping out the disease. Moreover, in spite of the notorious difficulties to be encountered in carrying out a series of measures, which are in most cases irksome, and in some cases singularly apt to excite opposition amongst Orientals, the whole of the operations were conducted with such judgment that no serious complaints were made by any class of society, whether European or native.

Cairo Lunatic Asylum.

A good deal was done last year in the way of improving and enlarging the lunatic asylum. Further, the "Caisse de la Dette" has recently granted a special credit for the erection of additional buildings. But I fear that some time will elapse before the asylum will be large enough to meet the requirements of the country. Until more money is available for building, and until the annual grant for the treatment of the inmates of the asylum is considerably increased, the present system of discharging patients before they are fully cured must inevitably continue to exist.

In the meanwhile, I hope that before long some means may be found of providing separate accommodation for criminal lunatics. Both Dr. Warnock, the head of the asylum, and Mr. Pinching very rightly draw attention to the inconvenience which results from the present system of keeping criminal and ordinary lunatics in the same building.

Water Supply of Provincial Towns.

On this subject Mr. Pinching writes as follows :—

"The Company to which the Government granted a concession for the water supply of Tantah is now distributing water throughout the town, and I am informed that the people are now taking it more readily than was formerly the case.

"The Sanitary Department, with the boring apparatus at its disposal, has made several borings throughout the Delta and Upper Egypt, and satisfactory water has been found in almost every instance at a depth of from 30 to 40 metres.

"Several hospitals have been supplied with pure water.

"At Mansourah, the results were not successful, for, though the boring was carried to a depth of some 60 metres, the water found was too much impregnated with salt to serve for drinking purposes. A similar result attended the attempt made at Matarieh (Lake Menzaleh).

"From these and other experiences, it would seem that there is traceable in the Delta a certain limit, north of which potable water similar to that obtained at Tantah and elsewhere ceases to exist at depths which can readily be reached by the machinery at our disposal.

"At Tahta, a town in Upper Egypt situated 4 miles from the river, and which depends for its water supply during the summer months either on the Nile or on neighbouring surface wells liable to every sort of pollution, a boring was made at the urgent request of many of the inhabitants; pumps were worked; a petroleum engine was erected, and a system of distribution organized. These measures involved a considerable outlay of money. Up to the present, however, the inhabitants have availed themselves only to a limited extent of the opportunity afforded them of procuring at little trouble a supply of good pure water, the majority preferring to maintain their ancient custom of either drinking the impure well water, or sending long distances to the Nile. A recent visit to the town afforded me the opportunity of inquiring into the matter on the spot, when the Omdeh, on being questioned, stated that the ignorant inhabitants dreaded to use the water, since they believed that the tanks gave the Government so ready a means, if it wished at any time to do so, of poisoning the whole village. It is probable, however, that these absurd ideas will gradually vanish from the minds of the people.

"At Bordein, in Sharkieh, the Department sank two wells at the request of the inhabitants, and which were paid for by the generosity of Princesses Amina and Naima Hanem, who have estates in the neighbourhood. Similar requests have been made by several other landed proprietors, who have been willing to defray all expenses; but with only one set of machinery at the disposal of the Department, it has been impossible up to the present to accede to these requests."

Cattle Plague.

No cases of this disease have occurred in Egypt during the past year, but since January 1899, it has existed in the Soudan.

It is to be feared that many years will elapse before the Soudan becomes entirely free from cattle plague, although it is not to be anticipated that it will cause such ravages in that region as was the case in South Africa. The pastures are not contiguous, and the flocks are often separated from one another by large expanses of desert. As long as the disease exists in the Soudan, it will be necessary to take the strictest precautions to guard against its travelling northward and thus infecting Egypt.

The Egyptian Government was able to obtain a quantity of cattle-plague serum from the Cape Government. Captain Griffith, the Principal Veterinary Officer of the Egyptian Army appears to have produced excellent results by the use of this serum in the Soudan.

Rabies.

Ten cases of rabies in dogs and cats, and nine in human beings were reported during 1899, as against eleven cases in dogs and two in human beings during 1898.

The Italian Benevolent Society has established an Anti-Rabies Institute in Cairo; eighty-eight persons bitten by different animals were treated at this establishment during the past year. It is impossible to say if, in all these eighty-eight cases, the animal inflicting the bite was really rabid, for it is only very rarely that the authorities are able to trace the animals and send them, alive or dead, to the Veterinary Department for examination.

Native Tribunals.

The various branches of the judicial system have recently formed the subject of an exhaustive report prepared by Mr. McIlwraith, the Judicial Adviser of the Egyptian Government. The remarks which I have to offer consist of little more than a brief summary of the facts and opinions set forth by Mr. McIlwraith.

The judicial statistics of the past year afford an additional proof that, like most Orientals, the Egyptians are litigious. The most striking figures are those of the Summary Tribunals.

These Tribunals are presided over by a single Judge. They have jurisdiction in civil matters up to 100*l*. They were instituted in 1891 ("Egypt, No 3 (1892)," p. 26), on the initiative of Sir John Scott, with a view to affording greater facilities than heretofore existed to the rural population for obtaining judicial decisions in all litigious matters up to the limit mentioned above. Since their first creation, the number of these Tribunals has been on several occasions increased. It cannot be doubted that this reform, which at one time encountered a good deal of opposition, has proved very beneficial to the people of Egypt. The number of cases brought before the Summary Tribunals increases year by year. The increase in 1899 over 1898 was nearly 12,000 cases, that is to say, from 68,690 to 80,011, in spite of the fact, to which I shall presently allude more fully, that a very large number of petty suits were decided by the village Omdehs.

The Summary Tribunals appear to possess the confidence of the public. It is satisfactory to learn, in Mr. McIlwraith's words, that "the Inspectors of the Committee of Surveillance report a steady improvement among the minor Magistrates in the interpretation and application of the law."

I may mention incidentally that the Committee of Surveillance, which was also created in 1891, has proved a most valuable institution. Its duty consists, not in revising the judgments, but in supervising the work of the lower Courts.

The work of the Parquet has, as Mr. McIlwraith rightly points out, been greatly improved since the appointment of Mr. Corbet to be Procureur-Général. Moreover, the tendency to antagonism between the judicial and executive authorities, which in Egypt, as elsewhere, has at times existed to the detriment of the public interests, seems, so far as I am able to judge, to have well nigh disappeared.

The work of revising the Penal Code, to which I alluded in my last annual Report, is progressing as fast as can reasonably be expected. This work,

Mr. McIlwraith explains, "is rather one of simplifying and rendering clear the provisions of the Code and of incorporating the results of modern tendencies, than of effecting any radical changes in the principles on which the Code is based."

Nevertheless, one or two modifications of some importance will probably be introduced into the revised Code. I need only allude specifically to two of these modifications.

The Egyptian Criminal Code, which is copied from the French Code, provides for a system of police supervision subsequent to the expiration of a sentence, which, Mr. McIlwraith says, "in its existing form is sometimes more harmful to the criminal than beneficial to the public." It cannot, in fact, be doubted that the system of police supervision is liable to great abuse, and that, from many points of view, it is open to valid criticism. It is satisfactory to know that the subject will engage the attention of the Commission now sitting to revise the Code.

Although a reformatory has for some years past existed in Cairo, I can myself bear testimony to the fact that boys are still to be seen in some of the Egyptian prisons who are far too young to mix with adult prisoners, and as to whom it may reasonably be doubted whether they should be imprisoned at all. The Commission now sitting will, therefore, consider the question of juvenile offenders, with a view possibly to extending the powers of the Tribunals to send them to reformatories. It is also worthy of consideration whether, under proper precautions against abuse, resort could not in some cases be usefully had to the punishment of whipping, and thus save some lads from the demoralizing associations of a prison.

Village Justice.

The effect of creating the Summary Tribunals, to which I have already alluded, was to relieve the pressure on the superior Courts. In the course of the year 1898, a further step was taken in the direction of decentralizing the administration of justice. In order to relieve the Summary Tribunals of a portion of their work, jurisdiction to try civil cases relating to personalty, in which the sum involved did not exceed P. T. 100 (about 1*l.*), was conferred on a certain number of village Omdehs (Mayors). The measure was experimental. It was, at first, not considered certain that the Omdehs could safely be trusted with any judicial powers.

Johnson Pasha was recently commissioned by the Ministry of Justice to inspect the working of the new system all over Egypt. I quote the following passage from his report, which is given at length by Mr. McIlwraith:

"There is not the slightest doubt that the arrangement is felt as a genuine relief by the population in general. The amounts for which judgment has been given go so low as P. T. 2½, and complaints for such sums as P. T. 5, P. T. 10, are of constant occurrence. It is evident that such debts could not be recovered in the ordinary Courts.

"The Omdehs have also shown a good deal of common-sense in treating the cases, of constant occurrence in Egypt, in which debts are incurred in kind (*i.e.*, in grain or stock), and there has been little or no trouble about execution of judgments. Their decisions seem to have given general satisfaction; in fact, I have not heard a single complaint, though I have given every opportunity for such to be presented.

"I hear, on the contrary, on all sides the desire for similar relief expressed by villagers, to the Omdehs of whose villages the power has not been granted, and the people of these villages constantly apply to the Omdehs of other villages who have the power."

The personal inquiries which I have from time to time made whilst travelling about various parts of Egypt, fully confirm Johnson Pasha's view as regards both the satisfactory working and the popularity of the system. Of course, in extending its operation, great care will have to be taken in the selection of the Omdehs on whom civil jurisdiction is conferred. If this is done, and at the same time an adequate supervision is exercised from the Ministry of Justice, I do not think that any serious risks of an abuse of power will be incurred.

Mixed Tribunals.

It will be remembered that the last quinquennial period of the Mixed Tribunals expired on the 31st January, 1898. Before the expiration of this period, certain proposed modifications in the existing law were submitted by the Egyptian Government to the Powers. A further prolongation of one year, that is to say, until the 31st January, 1899, was agreed upon in order to enable these proposals to be considered by an International Commission, which had been appointed with this object in view. A settlement on the outstanding points has now been concluded, and the Tribunals have been prolonged till the 31st January, 1905.

Before explaining the conclusions at which the Commission arrived, I propose to dwell briefly on a point of some importance which was, by common assent, excluded from its sphere of action.

It will be borne in mind that the grant of 500,000*l.*, made with the consent of a majority of the Commissioners of the Debt, to enable the Egyptian Government to conduct the Soudan campaign of 1896, gave rise to a law-suit, with the result that, under a judgment delivered by the Court of Appeal in December 1897, the money was repaid to the Commissioners. The Court held that, in applying the money of the Reserve Fund to military expenditure in the Soudan, the Commissioners had acted *ultra vires*. The question of how far a majority of the Commissioners can over-rule the opinion of a dissentient minority was not, as is sometimes supposed, decided by the Court of Appeal. The incident, however, naturally gave rise to a discussion on this point. It has now been settled by a Khedivial Decree, issued with the consent of the Powers who signed the London Convention of the 7th March, 1885. This Decree provides that all matters submitted to the "Caisse de la Dette" can be decided by a majority, save those which relate to military expenditure.

This decision may, I venture to think, be regarded as a satisfactory solution of a somewhat difficult question. It is, of course, conceivable that the views of the majority of the Caisse may not always be in accordance with those of the Egyptian Government and its British advisers, and, should this happen, the latter, it may be thought, will lose whatever advantage might have accrued from maintaining the rights of the minority.

On the other hand, apart from the fact that the conciliatory spirit shown by the "Caisse de la Dette" renders it generally possible to arrive at some compromise when any difference of opinion occurs, it is to be observed that, in the course of the recent negotiations, the main interest of the Egyptian Government lay in the direction of obtaining a definite decision, which would be unquestionably valid in law, in respect to any proposal which they might submit to the "Caisse de la Dette." It is obviously far more easy to attain this end if a majority decision is legalized than would have been the case if, as heretofore, doubts were allowed to exist as to the extent to which any one or more members of the Caisse might exercise a *liberum veto* on any proposal laid before the whole body of Commissioners.

As regards the exception made in the case of military expenditure, it is to be observed that the settlement now made does not in any way impugn the grounds on which the judgment of the Court of Appeal was based. Neither does it connote assent to those grounds. It merely recognizes the fact, of which there can be no doubt whatever, that the decision of the Court of Appeal was legally valid, and therefore has to be respected.

For the rest, all I need say is, that for various reasons the reserve made as regards military expenditure is not likely to cause much practical inconvenience in the future.

Turning now to the points which occupied the attention of the International Commission, I give a brief summary, extracted from Mr. McIlwraith's report, of the results which have been obtained.

It will be remembered that the Egyptian Government contended that the question of the jurisdiction of the Mixed Courts should be decided solely with reference to the nationality of the litigants, and that the Courts had exceeded their powers by extending their jurisdiction to cases in which any foreign interest was involved. Although this view failed to gain the acceptance of the International Commission, several measures were adopted of a nature to mitigate the evil of which the Egyptian Government complained.

In the first place, it has been enacted that: "Purely civil engagements contracted between natives cannot be assigned save with the consent of the debtor, which shall be proved by a document in writing or by recourse to the judicial oath." It is hoped that this provision will put a stop to an abuse which has very generally sprung up, and which consists in founding a demand for the Mixed Tribunals to exercise jurisdiction by making fictitious transfers of claims to foreigners.

In the second place, another device for evading the rules as to jurisdiction

consisted in an abuse of the process of the Court known as conservatory attachments or garnishee orders. A native creditor, having a dispute with his native debtor, would garnishee a foreigner who, he alleged, owed money to his debtor, and obtain an injunction forbidding him to part with any sums he might otherwise have paid to the latter. Or, again, where two natives were engaged in a law-suit before the Native Tribunals, a foreigner, by a collusive arrangement, would attach some imaginary sum, said to be owed him by the plaintiff, and claim that, in the event of judgment for the plaintiff, the debt should be paid by the defendant to himself, and not to the plaintiff in the action. In both these cases, the jurisdiction of the Mixed Tribunals was held to be immediately founded. The International Commission agreed to certain changes in the law which will, it is hoped, check the continuance of these abusive practices.

In the third place, the Municipality of Alexandria has, in its corporate capacity, been placed under the jurisdiction of the Native Courts. The endeavour of the Egyptian Government to extend the jurisdiction of these Courts to the Railway Administration and the Daira Sanieh proved unsuccessful.

Fourthly, the proposal of the Egyptian Government to legislatively exclude the jurisdiction of the Mixed Tribunals in suits concerning land between natives alone was adopted. This was merely an official enactment of the view of the law which has always been taken by the Court of Appeal.

In the fifth place, Article 11 of the Statute of Judicial Organization has been amended. It has been laid down that when the violation of any vested right forms the basis of a claim for damages on the part of any foreigner, the right must have been "recognized either by Treaty, by law, or by contract."

I have on previous occasions alluded to the unsatisfactory condition of the law relating to bankruptcy in Egypt. Some important changes have now been made.

The penal jurisdiction of the Mixed Courts has been extended to the offences of simple and fraudulent bankruptcy, when committed by bankrupt traders whose affairs are already before the Courts or liable to be brought before them. For fraudulent bankruptcy, they may inflict imprisonment of from two to five years, and for simple bankruptcy—that is to say, for less grave offences, such as reckless and unjustifiable extravagance, fraudulent preference of creditors, and omission to keep books—an imprisonment of from one month to two years. It has been provided that, where the accused is a foreigner, the functions of the Parquet in these prosecutions shall be performed by an European Magistrate.

As regards judicial liquidation, the system of the Code of Commerce has been radically modified by the introduction of the principle—now of very general application—of arrangements with creditors in lieu of bankruptcy, or of preventive composition ("concordat préventif"). It is perhaps unnecessary that I should explain the detailed changes in the law in this connection. It will be sufficient to say that the new provisions are based on the English Act (46 & 47 Vict., cap. 52, secs. 18 and 19), as well as on the French and Belgian laws.

In addition to the matters dealt with by the recent International Commission, a certain number of projects had remained over from the previous Commission of 1890, and, never having been finally disposed of, were recalled to the attention of the Powers.

In the first place, provision has been made for allowing Diplomatic and Consular Agents to bring actions as plaintiffs before the Mixed Tribunals. If they are engaged in commerce or manufactories, or own and exploit real property in Egypt, they will be subject to the jurisdiction of these Tribunals for all commercial cases and for all real actions where their official functions are not involved.

In the second place, it has been enacted that rights of preference on the proceeds of land must be registered in order to affect third parties.

Thirdly, a change has been made in the mode of recovering taxes. The Mixed Courts held that, where land was mortgaged to a foreigner, the sale of such lands for the recovery of taxes could only take place under the provisions of, and with all the formalities provided by, the Mixed Code of Procedure. The provisions of the Law of the 25th March, 1880, which introduced a greatly simplified procedure, were held to be inapplicable. An amendment now made in the Law remedies this inconvenience, while at the same time surrounding such sales with sufficient guarantees to safeguard the interests of creditors holding mortgages on the land sold.

Fourthly, the jurisdiction of the summary Judges of the Mixed Courts was heretofore confined to petty civil cases of a very limited value. Consequently, every commercial case, no matter how insignificant, had to be brought before the Tribunal of First Instance. Under the amended law, the jurisdiction of the summary Judges is

generalized and extended to commercial matters (except bankruptcy cases), and the limits are raised from P. T. 800 to P. T. 1,000 for judgments without appeal, and from P. T. 2,000 to P. T. 10,000 for judgments subject to appeal, thus placing their powers on the same footing as those of the summary Judges of the Native Tribunals.

Fifthly, an attempt has been made to deal with the law relating to the right of pre-emption. Pre-emption is an institution peculiar to Mohamedan law, and consists in the right of certain persons—co-owners, usufructuaries, and neighbouring proprietors—to pre-empt in the sales of certain lands, that is to say, to take the place themselves of an intending purchaser by paying the price offered and the expenses incurred. In practice this system caused great inconvenience. The new law explains in what cases pre-emption is permissible. Provision is made for a more satisfactory procedure than heretofore existed for the exercise of the right. The limits of time within which pre-emption may take place are also laid down with greater precision than was previously the case.

Sixthly, pawnbrokers' establishments have not hitherto been subject to any administrative control or supervision. A law has now been passed regulating the conditions under which such establishments will be authorized for the future.

On the whole it may be said that, although full effect has not been given to all the proposals made by the Egyptian Government, at the same time some useful measures of reform have been introduced, which, I venture to think, will in various degrees conduce to the benefit of all who are interested in the efficient working of Egyptian judicial institutions.

Before leaving this subject, I should wish to add some remarks of a more general character.

However necessary discussions such as those which have been going on for the last two years about the Mixed Tribunals may be, they are inevitably accompanied by some disadvantages. They unsettle the minds of important sections of the community. They arouse suspicions that an intention exists to create a state of things which will render the continued existence of the institution impossible. In reality, there never was the least foundation for these suspicions. In my Report for the year 1897 ("Egypt, No. 1 (1898)," p. 29), I stated: "Whatever may be the defects of these Courts, there can be no doubt that they have rendered great service to Egypt, and that their sudden disappearance would cause a serious dislocation of Egyptian affairs. Their continued existence is, therefore, on every ground to be desired. I hope and believe that it may be insured by friendly discussion of the issues now pending."

Now that the recent negotiations have been brought to a close, it is greatly to be hoped that, for some time to come, no occasion will arise for discussing any organic changes in the constitution or jurisdiction of the Mixed Tribunals. The Judges will thus be able to perform their judicial functions free from apprehension that the existence of the institution to which they belong is threatened, whilst the public will gain that confidence in the stability of the Law Courts which is essential to the orderly conduct of civil and commercial affairs. I see no reason why irritating discussions, of the nature to which I have alluded above, should not be avoided, but the risk of raising them will be greatly enhanced if two conditions are not fulfilled. The first of these conditions is that the Judges should adhere strictly, not merely to the text, but to the spirit of the law which regulates their attributes. So long ago as 1880, Baron de Ring, who was then French Consul-General in Egypt, said: "On ne saurait, je crois, nier que la Cour se soit montrée animée d'un esprit trop envahissant," and it can scarcely be doubted that the tendency to enlarge the sphere of action of the Mixed Courts has been steadily on the increase since these words were spoken. It is natural that the Egyptian Government should resent encroachments of this nature. I trust that I shall not be thought wanting in respect to the Judges in alluding briefly and in no unfriendly spirit to this point.

The second condition is that everything that is possible should be done to avoid political law-suits. Looking to the constitution of the Courts, and to the somewhat heated political atmosphere of Egypt, it is obvious that the Mixed Tribunals are very far from being a suitable body to decide a question such as that which was brought before them in 1896. These political law-suits place the Judges themselves in a very difficult and invidious position. They are asked to decide questions which are wholly foreign to the issues usually submitted to a Court of Justice. Whatever their decisions may be, they can scarcely fail to excite criticism of a nature calculated to impair that authority which the most important Tribunals of the country should possess.

Egyptian Companies.

I stated in my Report of last year that the question of regulating the conditions under which the formation of Limited Liability Companies should be permitted in Egypt was under consideration. I am now able to report that, on the 17th April, 1899, the Council of Ministers decided that for the future no application for the incorporation of a Limited Company would be considered unless the Articles of Association were in conformity with certain provisions which were laid down by the Government.

As my remarks on this subject will eventually be translated into Arabic and published in the vernacular newspapers, it may be desirable that, for the benefit more especially of my native Egyptian readers, I should explain the signification of the recent decision of the Council.

In the first place, I should observe that the majority of Companies formed to do business in Egypt are incorporated abroad, and are wholly independent of any Egyptian authorization or control. Such Companies are, of course, in no way effected by the recent Ministerial decision.

In the second place, I wish to repeat the warning I gave last year, to the effect that, when it is stated that the formation of an Egyptian Company has been sanctioned by the Egyptian Government, this only means that the Company has conformed to certain conditions laid down by the Government as an essential preliminary to the sanction being given. It does not mean more than this. It does not in any way signify that the Government either approves or disapproves of the special enterprise with which the Company is concerned, considered on its own merits. In saying this, I have no wish whatever to discourage native investors. Some projects laid before them will, without doubt, be based on thoroughly sound principles, and will be likely to prove remunerative. Others again may be of a more doubtful and speculative character. The Government does not undertake to distinguish between these two categories of investments. Its functions are strictly limited to laying down certain conditions, which the experience of other countries has shown to be of a nature calculated to protect the interests of investors. The latter have then to decide for themselves, and I should add that the experience of other countries has also shown that no legislative or administrative measures can adequately protect the careless investor. Egyptians, therefore, will do well not to go to the one extreme of exaggerated mistrust of all projects which may be laid before them, or to the other extreme of accepting too hastily the accuracy of any facts and opinions which may be embodied in a prospectus, but to adopt the middle course, which consists in carefully examining for themselves, with the aid of competent friends, the merits of each special proposal, whether it be put forward by Europeans or by their own countrymen.

For the information of Company promoters it may be desirable that I should state briefly the nature of the conditions, compliance with which is necessary before sanction is given to the formation of an Egyptian Company. A somewhat more ample description will be found in Mr. McIlwraith's published Report.

The Memorandum of Association must be an official deed ("acte authentique"), or at any rate the signatures must be legalised (Article 1).

The number of members cannot be less than seven. Moreover, Companies cannot be finally incorporated until the whole of the capital has been subscribed, and every shareholder has paid up 25 per cent. of the nominal value of the shares for which he has subscribed, being under no circumstances less than 1*l.* (Article 3).

The Regulations further provide that "shares shall be nominal until they are fully paid up" (Article 2). The conversion to bearer securities of shares not fully paid up has, as is well-known, given rise to much inconvenience.

In order to officially authenticate the appearance of a new Company, it is provided by Article 5 that the Memorandum and Articles of Association shall be published in the "Official Journal," as well as in those newspapers which are authorized to make judicial announcements and advertisements affecting the interests of the public (Code of Commerce, Article 63). Modifications of the Articles are likewise to be published in the same manner.

The Regulations provide that under no circumstances can any change be made in the essential object of the Company's operations, in view of which it was incorporated (Article 6).

The general meeting which sanctions any change must represent at least three-fourths of the capital, and the majority in its favour must represent at least one-half the capital. If, however, the first meeting summoned does not contain the necessary

quorum, a second meeting may be called to sanction the proposed modifications, and may adopt them if a quarter of the capital only is represented (Article 6).

One of the most frequent changes in Articles is the increase of the Company's capital. The new Regulations provide that new shares cannot be issued at a discount, and that, if they are issued at a premium, the surplus is to be placed to the Reserve Fund.

The power of issuing debentures has been limited. Their nominal value is not to exceed the amount at which the paid-up and existing capital figures in the last balance-sheet (Article 9).

The Regulations also lay down (Article 10) that "founders' shares shall not rank for dividend until the ordinary shareholders have received at least 5 per cent. The amount which the Articles of Association may assign to them shall not exceed the half of this surplus. Upon the winding-up of the Company, and after the reimbursement of the ordinary shareholders at par, the balance of the assets of the Company shall be divided in the same proportion between ordinary and founders' shares."

Provision is made for an independent valuation of property sold to Companies by promoters (Article 12).

In the same order of ideas, and following the German law, the Regulations require that any important purchase made by the Company during the first two years of its existence shall be approved by a general meeting constituted in the same manner as for changes in the Articles (Article 11).

The Rules further provide that vendors' shares shall not be detached from the file, nor disposed of within two years of their creation, adopting in this respect the provisions of the French Law (1st August, 1893, Article 2).

Mohamedan Law Reform.

I have on several previous occasions alluded to the unsatisfactory condition of the Mehkemeh Sheraieh, or Courts which deal with questions of personal status, such as marriage, divorce, and succession. I have also pointed out that no serious reform of these Courts was to be anticipated unless, either the matter were taken in hand by competent Moslems, or, at all events, unless the initiative of the Government were the natural outcome of the public opinion generally prevailing amongst the Moslem population.

There can be no doubt that the administration of justice by the Mehkemehs causes great discontent, and, morever, that this discontent has been steadily growing for some years. The numerous and well-founded complaints, which I have from time to time received on this subject, abundantly testify to the accuracy of this statement. Under these circumstances, the Egyptian Government decided in the course of last year to submit certain proposals for reforming these Courts to the appreciation of the Legislative Council. This measure was adopted more with a view to testing Egyptian public opinion on the subject than in any very sanguine hope that the conditions necessary to reform, to which I have alluded above, would be fulfilled. The result was to show that, in the present stage of Egyptian political life, there is a very wide gulf between the prevalence of discontent and the creation of an effective and tangible public opinion sufficient to be of practical aid to the reformer.

The particular reform which was proposed was that two Mohamedan members of the Native Court of Appeal should be added to the Appellate Court, over which the Grand Cadi presides. I should explain that the Mohamedan Judges of the ordinary Tribunals do not, as a rule, belong to the Ulema class, from whom the Cadis of the Mehkemehs are chosen. This constituted the main ground of opposition to their appointment.

On the matter being submitted to the Legislative Council, the Mufti, whose special functions consist in interpreting the sacred law, declared himself strongly averse to the proposed change, on the ground that it was an infraction of the immutable law of Islam.

Whether this view is correct is a matter in respect to which some difference of opinion exists amongst those most qualified to speak on the subject. The truth is that the phraseology of the Sharaa, which was drawn up many centuries ago, allows, in many cases, a wide latitude for various interpretations according to the predisposition of its modern expounders. However this may be, there can be no doubt that the opposition of the Mufti created a position of some difficulty for those members of the

Legislative Council who, on administrative grounds, would have been inclined to welcome the proposed change, but who not unnaturally shrunk from approving a measure which was represented to them, by the official expounder of the law of Islam, in the light almost of sacrilege. The result was that the Council passed a practically unanimous vote rejecting the measure. It would have been quite possible, and in accordance with the provisions of the Organic Law of 1883, to have over-ruled the objections of the Council. But, in the present instance, the adoption of this procedure would have been rightly considered a somewhat extreme exercise of the power conferred in this connection on His Highness the Khedive. The matter was wholly one for the Egyptians to decide for themselves. No European or general interest of any kind was involved. It is quite possible that the vote of the Legislative Council scarcely represented with accuracy the views of the most enlightened Egyptians on this subject, but, inasmuch as no native reformers raised their voices in favour of the reform, it had to be taken for granted that they acquiesced in the maintenance of the existing system.

The Khedive and His Highness' Ministers decided, therefore, on advice which was tendered by myself, not to bring the new Law into operation, at all events for the present. It was, however, thought desirable so far to persevere in the endeavour to improve the Mehkemehs as to give those Egyptians who are in favour of reform a fair opportunity of making their voices heard. A Commission has, therefore, been appointed, under the presidency of the Minister of Justice, to consider the whole question of the reform of the Mehkemehs. At the same time, the Mufti, whose tendencies were retrograde and who had introduced a somewhat unnecessary degree of violence into the discussions on this subject, was removed from his place. One European—Mr. Corbet, the Procureur-Général—has been appointed on the Commission. Mr. Corbet's intimate knowledge of the Arabic language, and his thorough acquaintance with Egyptian habits of thought, will, without doubt, render his assistance of great value. But whether the labours of the Commission will lead to any practical results of value must depend almost entirely on whether the Egyptian members, and notably the Grand Cadi and the new Mufti, are able to agree amongst themselves as to what should be done.

Both of these high functionaries are men of education and enlightenment. If they can devise a plan for removing the undoubted defects of the present system, without in any way infringing those juridical principles to which Moslems, very naturally and rightly, attach great importance by reason of their intimate connection with the faith of Islam, they will undoubtedly deserve the gratitude of their co-religionists in Egypt.

I turn to another branch of this subject, and, in doing so, I am glad to be able to record that solid progress was, during last year, made in connection with a matter of some importance.

I have on previous occasions alluded to the very defective arrangements heretofore existing for filing wills, title-deeds, and other important archives, which are kept in establishments affiliated to the Mehkemehs. In the course of last year the Ministry of Justice, acting with the cordial co-operation of the Grand Cadi, detached a number of employés for the purpose of proceeding to a general clearance and classification of the records. It is satisfactory to note that Mr. McIlwraith is able to write in the following terms:—

"The result of this measure has been a complete success, and has already produced a very great improvement in the aspect and working of this highly important Registry Office. During the last eight months, the title-deeds for the preceding twenty-five years have been thoroughly over-hauled, catalogued, and classified. Deeds relating to sales, marriage, divorce, settlements and other dealings with property, both real and personal, have been carefully collected, sorted, and grouped by years and names of parties. Every deed has been given a number, every register paged and indexed. The result is that, whereas formerly a person who applied for a copy of a Hodget or Wakfieh was often kept three, six, or even nine months before he got it, copies of all deeds registered during the last five and twenty years can now be obtained in a quarter of an hour. I recently paid a visit to this office and verified this statement by the simple process of taking applications for copies just come in and not yet dealt with, and requesting the head employé to find me the original. Though, in some instances, the applications referred to deeds received upwards of twenty years ago, the original was produced in a few minutes and a copy made on the spot. The work is still proceeding both in Cairo and in some of the provincial Mehkemehs—notably at Benha and Ghizeh—where considerable progress has already been made. Gradually it is be hoped that the archives of all the Mehkemehs in Egypt may be reduced to an efficient condition."

Some cases, leading to very distressing results, have occurred of late years of European women, who have married Egyptians in ignorance of the facilities which the Mohamedan law allows for divorce. It has now been arranged that when the Cadis or deputy Cadis are asked to unite a Christian or Jewish woman in marriage with a Moslem, they shall insist on her personal attendance before them, and shall explain to her the provisions of the Mohamedan law concerning polygamy and divorce, before they allow her to sign the register. In these cases also the marriage certificate will contain a printed summary of the provisions of the law.

Education.

I dwelt fully on the general question of education in my last annual Report. On the present occasion I need only record briefly the facts connected with the administration of the Department of Public Instruction during the past year.

Educational statistics testify both to the ever-increasing desire evinced by parents in all classes of Egyptian society to obtain instruction of various descriptions for their children, and to the enlargement of the sphere of action covered by the Department of Public Instruction. In 1887, only 1,919 pupils were under the direct management or inspection of the Department. Ten years later, the number had grown to 11,304. The figures for 1898 and 1899 are 19,684 and 23,390 respectively. The school fees, which in 1887 only amounted to about £ E. 9,000, have now grown to over £ E. 36,000.

In stating that all classes of Egyptian society share in this intellectual movement, some distinction should be made between Mohamedans and Copts. The Egyptian Government schools are, of course, open to children of all races and creeds, exemption from religious instruction being granted to all who apply for it. It is worthy of note that no community in Egypt is so largely represented in the Government schools, in proportion to population, as the Copts. While the percentage of Mohamedan pupils in the schools and colleges under the Ministry of Public Instruction is less than the percentage of Mohamedans in the total population, the percentage of Coptic pupils in the Government schools is almost treble the percentage of Copts throughout Egypt.

The following percentages show the relative proportion of Mohamedans and Copts in the Government schools and in the total population respectively:—

Percentage of	Mohamedans in total population	92
"	Mohamedan pupils in the schools	78
"	Copts in total population	6
"	Coptic pupils in the schools	17

These figures would appear to show that the Mohamedan population generally are less fully alive than the Copts to the advantages of education. It would, however, be a great mistake to suppose that the intellectual movement has not also extended to the Mohamedans. Such is very far from being the case. Indeed, in respect to one point of importance, there are some indications that Mohamedans are disposed to display greater activity than their Christian fellow-countrymen. A short time ago, I visited a school in Upper Egypt, which was numerously attended by both boys and girls, and which has been founded solely by Mohamedan private enterprise. On the other hand, although Coptic parents are eager to avail themselves of the educational advantages provided by the Government schools, they appear, so far as I am able to judge, indisposed to make any direct effort, at all proportionate to the wealth and influence of the Coptic community generally, for the improvement or extension of their own school system.

I have explained on former occasions that parents and guardians in Egypt are at liberty to select either English or French as the foreign language to be studied by their children in the Government schools. The former language appears to be growing in popularity. During 1899, 4,401, or 78 per cent., of the pupils in the schools and colleges belonging to the Public Instruction Department, were studying English, and 1,210, or 22 per cent., French.

The system of giving small grants-in-aid to private Kuttabs,* on condition that they submit to Government inspection and control, appears to have produced fairly satisfactory results. The number of these schools which responded to the invitation made to them in 1899 was 403, representing 10,407 pupils, as compared to 301, representing 7,534 pupils, in 1898. The funds at the disposal of the Public Instruction Department are, however, at present too limited to allow of any wide extension of this system.

Female education continues to make slow but satisfactory progress. During the last year over 1,000 girls attended the Kuttabs which are either under the direct management or control of the Department of Public Instruction. The two higher primary schools at Cairo were attended by 229 girls. It is the aim of the Department to make these schools models for imitation by those under private management. They are both under the direction of an English head-mistress and English second mistress of high professional attainments.

Polytechnic School.

The number of students in the Polytechnic School is steadily increasing, 45 being in attendance in 1899, as compared with 28 in 1897, 17 in 1895, and 10 in 1894. The 12 students who obtained the diploma of civil engineering last year were all immediately appointed to posts in the Government service—9 in the Public Works Department, and 3 in the State Railways Administration. The Public Works Department has recently raised from £ E. 6 to £ E. 8 per month the lowest initial salary to be paid to students of the Polytechnic School on being appointed to posts in that Department. The reports of the external examiners from the Public Works Department, under the presidency of Mr. W. J. Wilson, Director-General of Reservoirs, testify to considerable improvement in the work of this school during the past year. It appears that the teaching staff show less disinclination than formerly to make their courses of instruction practical, and to bear in mind the kind of work which the students will have to do when they leave the school. I gather, however, from reports which I have received, that the course of instruction at this school still admits of considerable improvement.

School of Medicine.

It cannot be doubted that before Dr. Cooper Perry's mission to Egypt, to which I alluded in my two last annual Reports, the condition of the School of Medicine was far from satisfactory. One of the most convincing proofs of the defective nature of the instruction which was imparted was to be found in the fact that very few pupils entered the school. I am glad to say that a great change has now taken place. Dr. Cooper Perry's recommendations have been carried into effect, and I was recently informed, on very high independent authority, that, save on one point, the system of instruction now in force at the school left nothing to be desired. The exception was that in respect to the important branch of anatomy the teaching staff required strengthening. This point will, without doubt, receive attention in due time from the proper authorities.

That the school has gained in popularity may be judged from the fact that eighteen students, of whom two were Germans, joined last October. It may now be confidently predicted that the school will continue to turn out a number of well-trained medical men sufficient to meet the demands of the country.

School of Law.

An important change, which I foreshadowed in my last annual Report, was made during the course of the past year in the system of instruction followed at the School of Law. Heretofore, instruction in all branches of European law was given solely in French. None but pupils who belonged to the French side of the Primary and Secondary Schools were, under this system, eligible for admission to the School of Law. All the pupils on the English side of the preparatory schools were practically

* These are the small schools attached to the mosques in almost every village in Egypt. Instruction at these schools is given wholly in Arabic.

debarred from admission to the School of Law, and, therefore, from the exercise of the legal profession in Egypt. It was decided to remove this disability. Last year, an English section was added to the School of Law. Three English jurists, possessing the necessary qualifications, were appointed to be lecturers. Last October, thirty-seven students entered the school, of whom seventeen joined the English and twenty the French section. The students on the English side of the school will, for a space of three years, follow a course of instruction in French in order to enable them to consult French works on law. Their examination at the end of the first three years will include both written and oral tests in the French language. A standard and authoritative commentary, in English, on Egyptian Civil Law is in course of preparation.

School of Agriculture.

One of the most certain tests of the popularity of education in Egypt is to be found in the degree of willingness shown by parents to pay school fees. From this point of view, the School of Agriculture appears to be gaining in public favour. All those who entered the school last October were paying pupils.

The number of Europeans who attend the school is increasing year by year. In 1899, out of a total number of sixty students, no less than twenty were Europeans. Their presence is to be welcomed, more especially as it will probably attract to the school the sons of wealthy Egyptian landowners in greater numbers than heretofore.

Since the introduction of practical agriculture as the predominant subject in the curriculum of the school, all the pupils who have obtained the diploma have, with one exception, found employment in agricultural pursuits in the Soudan, in the Daïra Administration, under the Khedivial Society of Agriculture, or elsewhere in Egypt.

Agricultural Society.

I mentioned in my last annual Report that an Agricultural Society had been organized under the presidency of Prince Hussein Kamil Pasha. It was thought desirable to give some liberal Government assistance to this institution, not only on account of its intrinsic utility, but also by reason of the manifest desirability of affording every possible encouragement to any movement in the direction of progress which, as in this case, was the spontaneous outcome of a healthy native public opinion. It was decided, therefore, to make an annual grant of £ E. 2,000 to the Society, to place plots of land, situated in various districts, at the disposal of the Committee for experimental purposes, and to apply to the Commissioners of the Debt for a grant of £ E. 8,000 from the General Reserve Fund, in order to enable the buildings necessary for the annual show of the Society to be constructed.

I am now glad to be able to report that the Commissioners of the Debt, fully entering into the spirit in which the proposal of the Government was conceived, consented to make a grant of £ E. 8,000. The total cost of the Agricultural Hall and its appurtenances will be £ E. 9,560. The excess, amounting to £ E. 1,560 over the grant made by the Commissioners, will be borne by the funds of the Society. The building is now completed, and was used for the purposes of the annual show, which took place during the month of February.

The Society has established an experimental station at Ghizeh, close to Cairo, which has been provided with suitable buildings at a cost of £ E. 500. During the past season, experiments were made with cotton at this station. The results were published in the Society's journal, which is printed in Arabic and English and issued bi-monthly to the members of the Society. Arrangements are in course of progress for the establishment of further experimental stations in the provinces.

Provincial Committees and Sub-Committees have been formed, through whose agency it is hoped that trustworthy agricultural statistics, which cannot fail to be of value, will be collected.

The Society has also undertaken to provide the poorer classes of fellaheen with good cotton seed. 8,600 ardebs (about 30,000 bushels) have so far been sold, the cost being recoverable from the purchasers with their taxes.

On the whole, it may be said that the Society has made a good start, and promises to be of use to the country. Good results can generally be obtained in Egypt if the hearty co-operation of the European and Egyptian elements of society can be secured. This is what has happened in the present instance. Prince Hussein Kamil and the

other Egyptian gentlemen, to whom the credit of initiating this movement is due, have been ably seconded by Mr. Wilfred Carey, the Treasurer, and Mr. Foaden, the Secretary of the Society.

For some few years past, a horticultural show has taken place annually under the auspices of a Committee. A Horticultural Society has now been formed under the patronage of His Highness the Khedive. It at present consists of seventy-two members. The Society has rented 4 acres of Government land at Ghezireh, where it is intended to form an experimental station. Two successful shows took place in the course of 1899. The display of flowers improves every year. The interest taken by the public in these shows appears also to be on the increase.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The Societies established in Cairo, Alexandria, and Port Saïd, for the prevention of cruelty to animals, continued their humane work during the course of last year.

1,178 animals were treated in the Cairo infirmary. A farrier is now employed at this establishment, as it was found that a great many cases of lameness were caused by bad shoeing. A third drinking-trough has been erected. The Cairo Society has now extended its operations to the neighbouring province of Ghizeh.

At Alexandria, 2,384 animals were treated during the past year; of these, 89 were destroyed as incurable, and 2,245 cured and discharged.

The numbers at Port Saïd were 2 destroyed, and 159 cured and discharged.

It cannot be doubted that the action of these Societies is making a steady impression on the condition of the animals employed in the towns where they exist.

Zoological Garden.

Some few years ago, a commencement was made in the direction of establishing a Zoological Garden at Ghizeh, close to Cairo. It was placed under the management of a Committee. From the 1st January, 1899, the Garden became a Government institution. A very competent Director was found in the person of Mr. Stanley Flower, who possesses an inherited taste for the study of zoology.

Special attention is paid to the desirability of gradually making a complete collection of Egyptian mammals, birds, and reptiles, but non-Egyptian species are not excluded. The number of animals exhibited was considerably increased during the year. On the 6th October, 1899, there were in the Garden 473 specimens, representing 132 species, as compared to 270 specimens of 98 species on the corresponding date of 1898. Some additions have since been made. A fine young male elephant was recently presented by the Government of India.

The staff of the Garden was mainly employed during the past year in rebuilding and repairing cages. Some progress was made, but much remains to be done. The Commissioners of the Debt have granted £ E. 1,500 for the erection of special buildings, for which the plans have been prepared, and which, it is hoped, will be completed during the current year.

The Garden appears to be popular. It was visited by 43,567 persons in the course of last year. The gate-money (about £ E. 1,000) more than suffices to pay for the food of the animals, which costs about £ E. 500 a-year.

Nile Fish Survey.

I mentioned in my Report of last year that it had been decided to undertake a complete survey of the fish of the Nile. This survey was begun in March 1899. Since then, 2,400 specimens have been forwarded to the British Museum for determination. These specimens were taken from the great lakes of the Delta, the Nile from the sea to Assouan, and the Fayoum. A considerable portion of the work has, therefore, already been accomplished. This satisfactory result has been due to the energy and perseverance of Mr. Loat, the specialist sent out by the British Museum. A credit of £ E. 1,000 was granted for the survey for the year 1899. Of this sum, £ E. 550 have been carried forward, and added to the grant of £ E. 1,000 for the current year.

Egyptology.

It is with great pleasure that I am able to record the fact of M. G. de Maspero having consented to return to Egypt, and take up again the post which he so ably filled many years ago. Under his direction, important improvements in the administration of the Archæological Department may be confidently anticipated. Two English inspectors, Messrs. Quibell and Howard Carter, have been appointed to the Department. Their duties will consist in the general supervision and guardianship of the many monuments existing in the country.

Good progress has been made in building the new Museum. It is hoped that it will be completed by the end of the current year.

About one-third of the Museum catalogue has been completed. The work so far performed is unquestionably of the very highest class. It is doubtful, however, whether it will be possible to continue it in such extreme detail, as the time it would take to complete would be considerable, and the cost almost prohibitive. What has been done is rather in the nature of a detailed scientific register of every object in the Museum than of an inventory.

A most regrettable incident occurred at Karnak during the flood of 1899, eleven of the columns of the great hall having given way. The causes of this accident are being studied. Many opinions have been hazarded on the subject. Sir William Garstin writes :—

"The first cause undoubtedly was the insufficient base upon which these columns rest. Further, the levels of the river have risen very considerably since the columns were first erected. Lastly, the equilibrium of the very unstable soil upon which they rest has possibly been altered by the removal of the masses of earth which surround their bases, in order to prevent the deleterious effect of the salts upon the stone."

The steps to be taken for the restoration of the Temple will require long and serious study. It is to be feared that the work will be very costly. In the meantime, the fallen masses of stone are being removed, and three columns, which were shaken by the fall of the others, and which were a source of danger to the rest, are being taken down piece by piece.

Preservation of Arab and Coptic Monuments.

About £ E. 9,450 was spent last year under this head. Of the £ E. 20,000 granted by the Caisse de la Dette some while ago a sum of £ E. 6,500 still remains unexpended. Of this amount, £ E. 2,000 is to be devoted to the preservation of Coptic monuments. A correspondence has been going on for some while past with the Coptic Patriarch with a view to enlisting the sympathies and insuring the co-operation of the Coptic clergy in this work. I am informed that there is some prospect of a fairly satisfactory arrangement being made.

The foundations of the Arab Museum have been completed, and work is in progress on the superstructure.

Conclusion.

On the whole, it may be said that the Egyptian history of the past year was marked by some features of a specially favourable nature.

In the first place, the last vestige of Dervish power in the Soudan disappeared. Thus the dead-weight, which has for so long oppressed the Egyptian situation, was removed.

In the second place, the skill and energy of the officials of the Sanitary Department averted the danger from plague with which the country was at one time threatened.

In the third place—and I dwell on this point with special pleasure—during no previous period of recent years has the cordial co-operation of the Egyptian elements of the Administration, as represented by His Highness the Khedive and his Ministers, and the European elements, as represented mainly by the superior British officials attached to the various Departments of the State, been more marked.

It is the intention of the Khedive to visit England in the course of next summer. I feel sure that His Highness will receive a welcome which will afford to him con-

vincing proof that all classes of the British public are inspired by feelings of the utmost goodwill towards his country and his dynasty.

The unfavourable side of the Egyptian situation for the moment is that the Nile flood, on which the prosperity of the country so largely depends, has failed beyond all former precedent. For the present, however, I see no reason for supposing that the probable consequences of this failure need be characterized in any stronger terms than those of temporary inconvenience.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Memorandum by Mr. H. H. Pinching, Director-General of the Sanitary Department, on the Outbreak of Plague at Alexandria.

A SUSPICIOUS case of plague was announced by Dr. Gottschlich, Sanitary Inspector attached to the Municipality of Alexandria, on the 4th May, 1899. It occurred in the person of a Greek boy who had been admitted into the Greek hospital, and though the symptoms and bacteriological examination of the contents of the bubo gave rise to grave suspicion, the Sanitary Department did not feel justified, on the strength of this one case, in proclaiming the country infected.

On the 20th May, a similar case was admitted into the Greek hospital, which, on investigation, proved beyond doubt that we were in the presence of plague. The two cases were at once reported to the Quarantine authorities, who in turn informed the several Powers. All precautions had been taken with regard to the person and effects of the first case, and a minute inspection had been made of the houses in the neighbourhood in which the young man lived, with a view of discovering if any other cases existed, but nothing giving rise to suspicion was found.

It transpired, after these cases were announced, that there had been a similar case admitted into the Greek hospital in the month of April, where the authorities had treated it as an ordinary case of glandular inflammation; the boy, a Greek, had recovered and been discharged. We may assume that this was a case of plague, but further researches have supplied no evidence, founded on any credible authority, which could warrant the assumption that plague existed in Alexandria previous to this date.

Immediately the cases were announced in Alexandria, the Sanitary Department took over from the municipality the whole responsibility of carrying out the sanitary measures considered necessary for combating the disease; the Government obtained a vote of money from the "Caisse de la Dette" for this purpose, and supported in every way the Department in its efforts to keep the disease within bounds.

The staff of doctors was greatly increased, and a systematic inspection of all houses within the infected quarter was carried out; limewashing gangs were formed, and a plan for keeping large bodies of the working-classes under observation organized.

At first, the disease was confined to the Hammamil quarter, which is chiefly inhabited by Europeans of the lower class, but as time went on cases were notified from almost all the quarters of the town.

The measures adopted in Alexandria were as follows:—

Immediate isolation of the plague case in either the Government or Greek hospital, where special wards existed for the treatment of infectious diseases; removal of all persons who had been in contact with the case to the quarantine station at Gabbari, where they were kept under observation for a period of seven days, fed at the expense of the Government, and all males of 16 years and upwards paid 3 piastres daily as compensation for wages lost while in quarantine.

When a case was found to have died outside the hospital, the body was removed to the mortuary, where it was prepared for burial, all precautions being taken to provide against dissemination of the infection, while the persons who had been in contact with the case were sent on to Gabbari for the purpose of undergoing there the seven days' isolation imposed.

The persons who had been in contact with plague cases on arrival at Gabbari

were obliged to remove all clothing, take a bath, and dress in clothes provided by the Government until their own clothes had been passed through the disinfecting stoves.

One case of plague only occurred amongst the "contacts" during the time Gabbari was occupied. All articles of clothing, bedding, furniture, carpets, curtains, &c., were removed in special carts from the infected houses, and were disinfected by superheated steam in the stoves at the Government hospital. At the commencement of the outbreak, two of these stoves existed at the Government hospital and two at the quarantine station at Gabbari, but measures were taken to supplement these machines by others, which were at once ordered from Germany.

The house where the case had occurred was then thoroughly disinfected by a gang of trained disinfectors by means of a solution of 1/1,000 perchloride of mercury; after this a gang of limewashers followed on, and limewashed the house throughout with a solution of lime freshly slaked; the mud floors were strewn with quicklime, and the houses were then closed until the proprietors came out of the quarantine establishment.

Carts were also sent round to remove the rubbish from inside the house; this included all old grass mats, soiled rags, cushions, &c., which were taken outside the city and burnt—the mats and cushions being replaced by new ones at the expense of the Government. It is worthy of note that no second case of plague occurred in any house which had been disinfected.

Whenever a succession of cases was reported from any quarter, a systematic cleaning of the whole quarter was undertaken at once, and all the houses in the neighbourhood cleansed and limewashed.

A list is appended of the number of houses limewashed, sacks of rubbish removed, &c., from the 20th May up to the present date:—

Houses and rooms disinfected	169
Rooms limewashed	111,676
Sacks of rubbish destroyed	43,049
Mats given gratuitously to replace those destroyed	14,074
Pillows " " "	5,912
Stables disinfected	854
Number of supplementary agents employed	732
Persons isolated	672

From the 20th May to the 2nd November, when the last case was notified, there was a total of ninety-three cases, forty-eight of which recovered and forty-five died.

Out of the total number, sixty-five cases occurred among the native population, and twenty-eight among the European, of which two were of French nationality, one Italian, and twenty-five Greek.

Twenty-one cases died out of hospital, and were discovered only after death the bodies of these people were buried with all due precautions, and all sanitary measures were taken, such as isolation of "contacts" and disinfection of houses and surroundings.

As a further measure of precaution in the event of the disease assuming serious proportions, it was thought advisable to obtain the services of three doctors from England who had had experience of plague work in India. These officials arrived in Alexandria in July.

In combating the disease, reliance was placed entirely on practical sanitary measures, and no attempt was made to put into practice the prophylactic treatment with Haffkine's serum. From the statistics published by Mr. Haffkine it appears to have been established beyond doubt that this serum is endowed with a certain limited power of protection, though it must be admitted that the degree and duration of the protection are both alike unascertained.

Under the circumstances, it was considered advisable that the Sanitary Department should be in a position to afford persons desiring it the opportunity of being injected with the serum; large quantities were, therefore, prepared in the Bacteriological Laboratories of Cairo and Alexandria, and it now remains ready for use should occasion arise.

From the limited experience I had of the disease in Alexandria, I cannot but think that plague behaves in much the same manner as other infectious diseases; that is, if the early cases are not discovered, it assumes proportions which baffle the efforts of the Sanitary authorities to extinguish it; but if, on the other hand, early notification is received of the first cases occurring in a community, and stringent measures

are at once taken, the disease may be as effectually dealt with as small-pox or scarlet fever.

It is in countries where the disease has assumed serious proportions, that is to say, when the infection has attained dimensions beyond control of sanitary measures, that the treatment by Haffkine's serum will have its use; but the idea that it should supplant practical sanitary measures, while the infection is still a limited one, is at once illusory and dangerous.

If it is desired to combat such a disease as plague, the measures, to be efficacious, must also be practical; and any suggestion of purchasing immunity from the disease by injecting with serum the whole population of a town like Alexandria must be considered as entirely impracticable. Fifty medical men employed solely on this duty would take some months before they accomplished the task, provided the operation were carried out with every technical precaution.

Whether the disease has been entirely extinguished in Alexandria it is yet too soon to say; it is now nearly three months since the last typical case occurred, though a single suspicious case was reported as recently as the 7th instant. The mortality of the town since June has been lower than the average of the last ten years.

The precautionary measures have in no way ceased, and the town is still being most carefully inspected; lime-washing and cleansing of dirty quarters continue; the examination of the dead is carried on with the greatest strictness to render certain that no case which might escape detection during life is buried without the necessary precautions being taken. It is not proposed that any abatement of these measures should take place for at least another two months, after which it may be possible to gradually reduce them if no more cases of plague arise.

No serious difficulties were found in carrying out any of the measures considered necessary at Alexandria, though many of them appeared irksome at the time to the general public, who did not realize the gravity of the situation when only one or two cases of plague were occurring daily in a city of some 380,000 inhabitants.

The Consular authorities in Alexandria rendered every assistance in their power to the Sanitary officials; the Greek Representative, whose community furnished the large proportion of the cases, especially interested himself in the measures, and was zealously devoted to furthering the work of the Sanitary authorities.

Damanhour, a town about 40 miles to the south of Alexandria, was the only other town in Egypt where cases of plague occurred. There two cases were discovered—one in the person of a Greek employed in a grocer's store in the town, the proprietor of which had made his purchases from a house in Alexandria where cases of plague had occurred; the other in the person of a native who was employed as a porter at the railway station, and transferred all merchandize from the railway trucks to the stores.

Strict watch was kept in all the towns throughout the country, with a view to detecting at once any cases of disease giving rise to suspicion. Many such cases were notified to the Department, but bacteriological examination invariably proved that they were not cases of plague.

(Signed) H. H. PINCHING,
Director-General Sanitary Department.

Cairo, January 30, 1900.

No. 30.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 36.)
My Lord, *Cairo, February* 21, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a letter which I have received from the Bishop of Jerusalem on the subject of the creation of a bishopric for Egypt and the Soudan.

It is, perhaps, unnecessary that I should discuss at length the views set forth in this letter. It will be sufficient for me to say that, in common, I believe, with every responsible authority in this country, I am strongly of opinion that the present moment

is singularly inopportune for moving in the direction proposed by Bishop Blyth, whether in respect to the Soudan or to Egypt proper.

I shall of course, should your Lordship desire it, be prepared to state at greater length my reasons for entertaining this opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Bishop Blyth to Viscount Cromer.

My dear Lord Cromer, *Jerusalem, February* 15, 1900.

THANK you for your letter of the 8th instant. It confirms the impression which I have more than once expressed both to Lord Kitchener and yourself that (whilst none of us deny, or wish to postpone, a due regard for the missionary charge which Christ has laid upon His Church) it is wise to restrain the undisciplined invasion of the Soudan by missionary agents, who owe allegiance only to the Society which sends them out, or are actuated very much more by sentiment than by real information as to the quest they have undertaken. I think the whole subject of missionary enterprise of this character is so wrapped up with political considerations that I have fully shared the objection of Lord Kitchener and of yourself to immediate missionary activity; and further, I see great difficulty (and I openly expressed it more than eighteen months ago) that any English Society which has taken the line of aggression on the Churches of the land in Egypt, or in any other part of the East, should, except under proper church control, occupy missionary enterprise in which the Church of the land has, of course, a primary interest. I think proselytism in Upper Egypt could only hamper the progress of education and good understanding in parts of Egypt where English influence is more fully established; and I do not see how Lord Kitchener could, with justice to other Churches, give preference to the demands of English Societies. And, of course, we know the foreign missionary enterprise is primarily political, and that any injury done to a missionary who is under the protection of a foreign Power might be exceedingly embarrassing to the Governor-General of the Soudan. I have felt that there was nothing in the unwillingness shown by yourself and Lord Kitchener to welcome a missionary rush into the new territory which indicated any unconsciousness of the legitimate claims of missionary enterprise. I quite feel that, until the Government of the country is fully and firmly settled, no one ought to be allowed to rush into personal peril under a missionary flag, whether the spirit that actuated him was devotional, sentimental, or political. And I cannot see that any real missionary interest could lose by avoiding indiscreet haste. And, as I think that the outlines of civil government should first be carefully traced, so do I think that the control of ecclesiastical government should be established before Societies and individuals are allowed to act on their own responsibilities. And specially we ought to be cautious about the proper control of missionary work in Moslem lands, as our Empire is so deeply pledged to fairness towards its Moslem subjects and dependents, amongst whom the results of indiscretion would be widely current.

I have thus given you my view on the subject of missionary enterprise in some detail.

You will now see my reasons for advocating the appointment of a Bishop, who may be resident in Egypt, so far as it concerns missionary work. It seems to me necessary for the control and direction of the missionary work of the Church, that the outlines of Church organization should first be laid. Success of our cause in Southern Africa will give this view very much greater prominence, and it may be too late to introduce the machinery of control when there is a general rush, commercial, educational, sentimental, or religious, to the front. I should as soon expect you to occupy new ground with a few pickets of police, superintended by officers or Magistrates of inferior rank, directed from Cairo, as let the rank and file precede the appointment of the officers of the Church.

With regard to Lower Egypt, there are now so many out-stations in which Englishmen live who are engaged under Government, or in irrigational works, or in factories, or in enterprises of one sort or another, that Egypt of to-day has quite outgrown the Egypt of ten years ago. Your own wise administration has developed the religious claims of English residents in quite as remarkable proportions as any other interests have been developed. My late visitation tour very greatly deepened the

conviction I had previously formed, and five or six years ago I named to the late Archbishop of Canterbury the lines on which I thought a resident bishopric should be formed. The supporters of the two large chaplaincies raised an objection that the residence of a Bishop might overshadow the useful influence now wielded through them. This view was expressed in Sir John Scott's letter to the "Times" last summer, on the authority, so he said, of one of the senior chaplains. The right sort of Bishop could only foster and strengthen such chaplaincies as these. When I was in Egypt just now our old friend Dean Butcher greatly astonished me by suggesting an impression that the bishopric scheme was in the hands of the "Association for the Furtherance of Christianity in Egypt," and that Lord Halifax and Mr. Athelstan Riley were prominently concerned in it. This is absolute error. The "Furtherance" Society has no connection whatever with the bishopric, nor are Lord Halifax and Mr. Riley members of that Association, or in any way interested in the establishment of the bishopric. So long as the arrangement is that for a suffragan Bishop, the choice of a suffragan rests with myself. I have never had any sympathy with party spirit on either side, and a man of party spirit would not be chosen by me. I think I know as well as any man can do what sort of a Bishop is required for Egypt.

The last ten years of my Episcopate have been marked by an amazing growth of foreign church—ecclesiastical and educational—building in Palestine and Syria. Matters of political rather than of religious consequence, and in increasing sympathy with the Churches of the land, and in towards promoting wherever I could kindly intercourse with the Moslem population, I think I have best aided English interests within my bishopric. But if my just claim to be heard with regard to English Church interests in Egypt is set aside, whether the idea may be that the Moslems might be offended, which I am sure they should not be, or that a Bishop's presence would overshadow the present chaplaincies, or that no more work is needed than I can give myself, but how little that is, alas, I know best; also, I am so deeply pledged to advocate Jewish work in England that I cannot plead sufficiently the needs of Egypt. You want a separate Bishop's fund, as well as a separate Bishop. I feel sure the result will be the sudden and unexpected endowment of a purely missionary bishopric, which will care little for civil considerations, and not regard the wants of English residents. There is a very strong sentiment on this point, and it is sufficiently well backed in the House of Commons to carry it directly it is understood that legitimate Church arrangements are set aside.

The flag of England is the blend of the Cross, whether it be that of St. George, St. Patrick, or St. Andrew, and true statesmanship will consider the duty of England, whether its aspect be commercial, civilizing, Imperial, or religious.

I feel sure that your kindness will lay this view of the Bishop before Lord Salisbury, on my behalf, should you deem it necessary to call his attention to this subject.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) G. POPHAM BLYTH,
Bishop in Jerusalem.

P.S.—I apologize for dictating this long letter, to save the strain of writing to my own eyes.

G. P. B.

No. 31.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Cairo, March* 10, 1900.

IN 1890 four proposed Decrees were submitted to the Powers, dealing with various matters of minor importance in connection with the working of the Mixed Tribunals.

All the Powers agreed to these Decrees with the exception of Portugal, which raised an objection to one of them, regulating the position of Consular Representatives who are not considered Consuls "de carrière." If it were possible to induce the Portuguese Government to withdraw their objections, great delay and tedious negotiations would be obviated, as it would otherwise be necessary to separate one Decree from the rest, and the French Government has so far accepted them as a whole. I understand that France intends to urge the Portuguese Government to agree. The other Powers, such as Denmark, &c., which are in a similar position, have signified their consent.

No. 32.

Count de Salis to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 63.) *Brussels, March* 10, 1900.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Law published in the "Moniteur Belge" of yesterday, by which, as long as the Mixed Tribunals in Egypt are maintained, Belgian Consuls are declared to be no longer competent after to-day's date to deal with cases of bankruptcy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DE SALIS.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Extract from the "Moniteur Belge" of March 9, 1900.

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES ET MINISTÈRE DE LA JUSTICE.

Loi concernant l'Extension de la compétence des Tribunaux Mixtes en Égypte, en matière de Faillite et de Banqueroute.

LÉOPOLD II, Roi des Belges, a tous présents et à venir, salut.
Les Chambres ont adopté et nous sanctionnons ce qui suit :—

"*Article Unique.*—A dater du jour qui suivra la publication de la présente Loi et aussi longtemps que les Tribunaux Mixtes organisés en Égypte seront maintenus, les Consuls Belges s'abstiendront de connaître des faits de banqueroute simple ou frauduleuse, des délits connexes à de pareils faits qui seraient imputables à d'autres que le failli et des fraudes commises à l'occasion d'un concordat préventif."

Promulguons la présente Loi, ordonnons qu'elle soit revêtue du sceau de l'État et publiée par la voie du "Moniteur."

Donné à Laeken, le 5 Mars, 1900.

(Signé) LÉOPOLD.

Par le Roi :
Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) P. DE FAVEREAU.
Le Ministre de la Justice,
(Signé) J. VAN DEN HEUVEL.

Vu et scellé du sceau de l'État :
Le Ministre de la Justice,
(Signé) J. VAN DEN HEUVEL.

No. 33.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir H. MacDonell.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 12, 1900.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 1 of to-day's date, repeating a telegram from Lord Cromer respecting Mixed Courts in Egypt, I request that you will make representations to the Portuguese Government pointing out the expediency of avoiding delay in accepting the four proposed Decrees.

I am sending you by post to-day papers bearing on the subject which will give you all necessary information.

No. 34.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Cairo, March* 13, 1900.

THE Greek Consul-General tells me, in connection with the projected changes in the Court of Appeal set forth in my despatch No. 22 of the 7th February, that objections may possibly be raised by Spain on the ground that that country requires a separate Representative in the Court. All the Great Powers have given their assent, or are about to do so.

M. Gryparis asks me whether representations could not be made by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid on the subject, Greece having no Representative at that Court.

This would be a friendly act towards Greece, but otherwise we have no great interest in the matter. It might be possible for us to express a hope that the Spanish Government will refrain from objecting, as, if they do, the whole proposal will fall through, for there is little likelihood of a separate Spanish Judge being appointed.

No. 35.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Adam.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1900.

IN my telegram No. 1 of to-day I repeated to you Viscount Cromer's telegram No. 57 respecting the proposed increase of the number of foreign Judges in the Appeal Court of the Mixed Tribunals in Egypt.

I request that you will make representations to the Spanish Government in the sense suggested by his Lordship.

I am sending to you by post Lord Cromer's despatch No. 22, to which reference is made in his telegram.

No. 36.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 46.) *Cairo, March* 8, 1900.

My Lord,

THE Greek Consul-General called on me this morning, and informed me that he had heard from Constantinople that the Sultan had confirmed the appointment of Mgr. Photios to be Patriarch of Alexandria in the place of the late Patriarch Sophronios. Mgr. Photios is the candidate elected by the Greek community in Egypt. I have not thought it necessary to report fully to your Lordship the details connected with this affair, which at one time threatened to cause a good deal of trouble. It will be sufficient to say that the matter has now been settled in a manner which appears to satisfy all the parties concerned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

No. 35*.

Mr. Adam to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, March* 16, 1900.

MIXED Courts in Egypt.

I made a verbal representation in the sense of your Lordship's telegram No. 2 of the 13th instant, and have been informed, in reply, that the Spanish Government will not take any action in regard to the Egyptian Circular of the 5th February before ascertaining, through their Representatives abroad, the views of foreign Powers upon the subject.

No. 36 A.

Sir H. MacDonell to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Lisbon, March* 19, 1900.

MIXED Courts in Egypt.

With reference to your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 1 and 2 of the 12th instant, I am informed by Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs that their Representative will be authorized to sign the four proposed Decrees if Boutros Pasha will consent to adopt the Portuguese view as to their Consuls who do not belong to the regular Consular career.

No. 36 B.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Viscount Cromer.

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1900.

MIXED Courts.

With reference to the telegram from Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon, No. 1 of to-day's date, it appears that the Portuguese Government are prepared to give their assent only in the event of their conditions being accepted.

I should be glad to be informed of any compromise which your Lordship may have to suggest.

No. 38*.

Sir H. MacDonell to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Lisbon, March* 26, 1900.

WITH reference to the telegram No. 64 of the 21st instant from Lord Cromer, repeated to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 5, the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs asks whether, seeing that their Consul at Alexandria, as well as their Consul-General, is a Portuguese subject, he could not also be included in the proposed arrangement.

No. 37.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 64.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Cairo, March* 21, 1900.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, respecting the terms on which the Portuguese Government are disposed to accept the proposed Decrees, I have the honour to state that, if they will address a letter to the Egyptian Government, stating that their Representative belongs to the Diplomatic or Consular career, a reply will be sent by Boutros Pasha, taking note of this communication, and stating that the same treatment in all respects will be granted to this official as to the Consuls-General of other countries whose Representatives are usually sent from home, and not nominated among residents in this country.

This arrangement should, I think, satisfy the views of the Portuguese Government. A fresh Decree to this effect would require the consent of all the Powers, and would incur some difficulty, and certainly very great trouble.

No. 38.

Sir H. MacDonell to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 15.)
My Lord, *Lisbon, March* 20, 1900.

ON receipt of your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 1 and 2 of the 12th instant, I at once addressed an official note to the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs in the sense of these telegrams, asking for Portugal's assent to the four Decrees of 1890 concerning the Egyptian Mixed Tribunals.

Senhor Beirão handed to me the next day a Memorandum (copy inclosed) for my information, containing the conditions which the Portuguese Representative in Egypt had been instructed to put forward, as regards the position of all Portuguese Consular officials, and which Senhor Beirão stated that he still hoped to see accepted by the Egyptian Government.

These are the conditions to which I alluded in my telegram to your Lordship of yesterday (No. 1).

Since, however, writing the above-mentioned note, and seeing Senhor Beirão, I to-day received, by bag, your Lordship's despatch No. 7 of the 12th instant upon the same subject. With the details of the Decrees now before me, I propose again to see Senhor Beirão, and to endeavour to persuade him to fall in with the views of the other Powers who are similarly situated to Portugal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MacDONELL.

Inclosure in No. 38.

Pro-memorid.

LES conditions proposées à Boutros Pacha par le Consul de Portugal sont:—

1. Tous les Consuls-Généraux et Consuls du Portugal, s'ils étaient sujets ou naturalisés Portugais, doivent être reconnus comme "missi."

2. Ces fonctionnaires ne seraient pas, comme défendeurs, justiciables des Tribunaux Mixtes, à moins que le Gouvernement Portugais ne lui concède l'autorisation de renoncer à cette immunité. Dans ce dernier cas, ils ne pourraient être attaqués par-devant les Tribunaux Mixtes que seulement pour toutes les affaires commerciales et industrielles, et pour toutes les actions réelles immobilières où leur qualité officielle ne sera pas en cause.

3. En aucun cas, les Tribunaux Mixtes ne seront compétents, si les affaires ou actions intentées à ces fontionnaires peuvent entraîner une peine quelconque autre qu'une condamnation civile pécuniaire.

4. S'il survient une difficulté, on en reviendrait au *statu quo*.

No. 39.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 61.)

Cairo, March 25, 1900.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 100 of the 30th June, 1898, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of Protocols Nos. 2 and 3 recording the Proceedings of the Egyptian International Commission on Judicial Reform*.

I forward also duplicates of Protocol No. 1 to complete the set as issued up to the present date*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

No. 40.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 64.)

Cairo, March 29, 1900.

My Lord,

SINCE writing my despatch No. 36 of the 21st ultimo, I have been in frequent communication with Mr. Montagu Fowler on the subject of the creation of a bishopric for Egypt and the Soudan. Mr. Montagu Fowler has devoted much attention to this subject; through him I have communicated with Bishop Blyth.

I have now the honour to inclose a "Draft Appeal," which has met with the approval of Bishop Blyth and of Mr. Fowler, and which, I understand, is to be submitted to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Your Lordship will observe that in this document it is clearly stated that "the active episcopal functions of the new Bishop, will, for the present, be confined to Lower and Upper Egypt." The Soudan will, therefore, for the time being, be practically excluded from the See. Moreover, the appeal for funds, in so far as Egypt proper is concerned, is based on the desirability of meeting the wants of the Anglican community in that country.

Under these circumstances I have informed Mr. Fowler that I see no political objection to the issue of the appeal.

I should add that both Bishop Blyth and Mr. Fowler are of opinion that it would be preferable to create an independent Bishopric for Egypt, rather than to name a suffragan Bishop dependent on the bishopric in Jerusalem.

I fully concur in this view.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Draft Appeal.

AN appeal was issued in January 1899 by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and (with one or two exceptions) by the Bishops of both provinces, inviting Church people to subscribe towards the endowment of a bishopric for Egypt.

Hitherto, the episcopal oversight of the Anglican congregations in the land of the Pharoahs has been exercised by the Bishop of the Church of England in Jerusalem and the East. But the extension of the work under the able administration of Bishop Blyth, since his consecration in 1887, has forced upon him the conclusion, which strengthens year by year, that, if the Church is to rise to her opportunities, it is essential that he must be relieved of a portion of the burden at present laid upon him.

The development of political affairs in Egypt has already brought about an increase in the number of Englishmen employed in some capacity—either in connection with the Government or in commercial enterprises, or in the carrying out of

* Not printed.

engineering or similar works—throughout the country; and it is only to be expected that this immigration of Englishmen will continue for many years to come.

If the Church is to make adequate provision for the spiritual wants of her children scattered along the Valley of the Nile, it is obvious that considerable effort on the part of Church people at home will be necessary, and the peculiar conditions of the problem can only be efficiently fulfilled by the controlling and directing influence of a resident Bishop.

One of the most pressing needs in this connection is the arranging for the services of a clergyman—occasional, if not permanent—at the numerous centres, such as Zagazig, Tantah, &c., where there is a small English community, which is not sufficiently wealthy to maintain its own chaplain without extraneous help.

The extension of educational effort among the various classes and creeds of the native population, who may desire their children to be trained in schools which are under the control or influence of the representative of Anglican Christianity, is a subject that is gaining importance every year. But it is essential that these efforts should be founded on a sound and practical basis, in such a manner as to be in accordance with the administrative policy of Lord Cromer, and in no way antagonistic to the excellent educational system of the Egyptian Government. The various attempts in this direction at present in existence might be strengthened and rendered more valuable by such systematization as could be brought about by the personal influence of a Bishop who was familiar, by constant association and intercourse, with the methods and working of the schools, and who could be appealed to for assistance or advice.

The spirit of friendship and brotherhood which has marked the relations between the Anglican Church and various branches of the Eastern Church during the past twenty years is worthy of encouragement, and the existence of this feeling opens out a great opportunity for the Church of England to show her practical sympathy with Oriental Christianity by tendering her aid in such ways as are best calculated to be acceptable and helpful.

The question of missionary work in the Soudan is one that forces itself to the front in the minds of all earnest Churchmen, and hopes have been indulged in, not only by ourselves, but by many bodies of Christians, that a vigorous campaign might be set on foot without loss of time, with a view to holding up the cross of Christ in that vast region. But it is not generally realized that the Soudanese are not pagans, who may at least be willing to listen to the preaching of Christianity, whether they accept it wholeheartedly or not. On the contrary, they are fervent Mahommedans, who would certainly resent any attempt to interfere with their religious views. In the opinion of those whose long experience on the spot gives special value to their judgment, it would seriously interfere with the task of the pacification and civilization of the Soudan if any form of missionary propaganda were to be carried on among the inhabitants for several years to come.

It is popularly believed that one of our Church Societies, as well as the Roman Catholics, have received permission to commence operations of a proselytizing character at Khartoum, and, not unnaturally, it is felt that the Anglican Church ought, if such is the case, to be allowed full scope for placing an official representative there. But this belief arises from a misapprehension of the real facts. Various Christian missionaries have, it is true, been allowed to pass through the Soudan with a view to establishing themselves in the region south of Fashoda, in order that they may work among the different heathen races in those localities. In each instance leave has been granted to form a small base or depôt at Khartoum, as a means of communication between the south and the head-quarters of their own Missions in Europe. This concession, however, has been made by Lord Cromer on the distinct and definite understanding that such depôt will not be used as the centre of missionary activity, but that its utility will be strictly confined to the purpose for which it is founded. In a recent instance, in which the conditions laid down by the political authorities were contravened, steps have been taken to insure compliance with them.

Under these circumstances it has been decided, on the advice of Lord Cromer, and with the concurrence of Bishop Blyth, that, while the jurisdiction of the Bishop for Egypt will include all that portion of Africa defined in the Queen's Letters Patent granted to the Bishop of the Church of England in Jerusalem and the East at his consecration in 1887, the active episcopal functions of the new Bishop will, for the present, be confined to Lower and Upper Egypt.

Through the generosity of Church people at home, the sum of 8,000*l.* has already been subscribed towards the endowment of the Egyptian bishopric, and we urgently

appeal for further donations in order that this extension of the work of the Anglican Church may be placed on a permanent basis before the end of the present year.

The sum originally asked for was 20,000*l*. This would barely yield 600*l*. a-year. The cost of living in Egypt is considerably higher than at home, and the expenses of constant travelling up and down the Nile, as well as of the necessary visits to England (with a view to keeping Church people acquainted with the progress of the work), would be very great.

We therefore feel, and in this view we are supported by Bishop Blyth's ripe experience, that, to place the bishopric on a firm financial footing, the sum of 30,000*l*. ought to be raised, and we have confidence that, in spite of the heavy calls which have recently been made on the generosity of Englishmen, the recognition of our national responsibilities in regard to Egypt—a country so intimately connected with the very existence of the Christian faith—will issue in a prompt and practical response to this appeal, and will insure the immediate establishment of an Anglican Episcopal See in one of the oldest, and undoubtedly one of the most interesting and historical, Patriarchates of the Catholic Church of Christ.

It has been suggested that the seat of the Anglican Bishop for Egypt might for a time be placed in Alexandria, from which centre of commercial activity both the Coptic and Orthodox Greek Patriarchs take their title.

(Signed)

No. 41.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 70.)

Cairo, April 4, 1900.

My Lord,

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the proposed reform of the Mixed Tribunals in Egypt, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, extracted from the "Journal Officiel," a series of Khedivial Decrees enacting modifications in the Organic Statute, and in the text of the Civil, Criminal, and Commercial Codes of those Tribunals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Extract from the Egyptian "Journal Officiel" of April 2, 1900.

Décrets.

NOUS, Khédive d'Égypte,

Vu le Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire pour les Procès Mixtes en Égypte;

Après accord intervenu entre notre Gouvernement et les Puissances qui ont adhéré à la Réforme Judiciaire;

Sur la proposition de notre Ministre de la Justice et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres,

Décrétons:

Article 1er. Les Articles 9 et 11 du Titre I, Chapitre I, paragraphe 2, du Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire sont remplacés respectivement par les Articles nouveaux ci-apres:—

"Article 9. Ces Tribunaux connaîtront seuls des contestations en matière civile et commerciale entre indigènes et étrangers et entre étrangers de nationalités différentes, en dehors du statut personnel.

"Ils connaîtront seulement des actions réelles immobilières entre indigènes et étrangers ou entre étrangers de même nationalité ou de nationalités différentes.

"La Municipalité d'Alexandrie, dans ses rapports avec des indigènes, n'est pas justiciable des Tribunaux Mixtes.

"Article 11. Les Tribunaux ne pourront pas statuer sur la propriété du domaine public.

"Ils ne pourront connaître des actes de souveraineté ni des mesures prises par le Gouvernement en exécution et en conformité des Lois et Règlements d'Administration Publique.

"Mais, sans pouvoir interpréter un acte d'Administration, ou en arrêter l'exécution, ils seront compétents pour juger les atteintes portées par cet acte à un droit acquis d'un étranger, reconnu soit par des Traités, soit par des Lois, soit par des Conventions."

Art. 2. Ces dispositions entreront en vigueur un mois après la publication qui en sera faite dans les formes prévues par l'Article 35, Titre I, du Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire.

Art. 3. Notre Ministre de la Justice est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait au Palais d'Abdine, le 26 Mars, 1900.

(Signé) ABBAS HILMI.

Par le Khédive:

Le Président du Conseil des Ministres,
(Signé) MOUSTAPHA FEHMY.

Le Ministre de la Justice,
(Signé) IBRAHIM FOUAD.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) BOUTROS GHALI.

Nous, Khédive d'Égypte,

Vu le Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire pour les Procès Mixtes en Égypte;

Vu les Codes Civil et de Procédure Civile et Commerciale Mixtes;

Après accord intervenu entre notre Gouvernement et les Puissances qui ont adhéré à la Réforme Judiciaire;

Sur la proposition ds notre Ministre de la Justice et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres,

Décrétons:

Article 1er. L'Article 436 du Code Civil Mixte est modifié ainsi qu'il suit:—

"Article 436. Elle est transmise vis-à-vis des tiers:

"1. Par la notification du transport au débiteur cédé;

"2. Par l'acceptation du cédé dans un acte ayant date certaine, et à partir de cette date seulement. Elle est valable contre le cédé, quoique l'acte n'ait pas date certaine, du moment de son acceptation, et le tout sans préjudice des règles du commerce pour la cession des titres et effets de commerce.

"Néanmoins les obligations purement civiles, nées entre indigènes, ne pourront être cédées qu'avec le consentement du débiteur, lequel ne pourra être établi que par écrit ou par délation de serment."

Art. 2. Les Articles 478 et 479 du Code de Procédure Civile et Commerciale Mixte, sont modifiés ainsi qu'il suit:—

"Article 478. Si le saisi et le tiers-saisi demeurent dans le même lieu, la saisie-arrêt pourra être signifiée par le même acte au saisi. Si le titre en vertu duquel la saisie-arrêt est faite n'est pas exécutoire, l'acte contiendra assignation devant le Tribunal, dans les termes ordinaires, pour voir déclarer la saisie-arrêt valable comme régulière et fondée.

"Dans le cas où une saisie-arrêt est faite par un indigène contre un autre indigène entre les mains d'un étranger, l'instance en validité de la saisie doit être portée devant les Tribunaux Mixtes, mais la contestation sur la créance entre les deux indigènes reste de la compétence des Tribunaux Indigènes.

"Article 479. S'il n'est pas fait un seul acte pour la signification de la saisie-arrêt au saisi et au tiers-saisi, l'acte de saisie-arrêt sera dénoncé dans la huitaine au saisi; si le saisissant n'agit pas en vertu d'un titre exécutoire, l'acte de dénonciation

contiendra une assignation en validité, et l'acte de dénonciation sera contre-dénoncé au tiers-saisi dans un nouveau délai de huitaine, le tout outre les délais de distance.

"Si au cours d'une instance entre deux indigènes devant la juridiction indigène, un étranger vient pratiquer une saisie-arrêt sur la créance litigieuse, cette saisie n'aura d'effet que sur ce qui sera définitivement adjugé par la juridiction indigène, et le saisissant ne pourra agir contre le tiers-saisi qu'après solution du procès pendant, le tout, sauf le cas d'une collusion entre le saisi et le tiers-saisi, ou si les parties ne donnent pas suite au procès pendant.

"Le tiers-saisi sera tenu de se libérer entre les mains du saisissant ou de déposer à la Caisse du Tribunal Mixte la somme dont il aura été reconnu débiteur, si elle est insuffisante à payer tous créanciers opposants."

Art. 3. Ces dispositions entreront en vigueur un mois après la publication qui en sera faite dans les formes prévues par l'Article 35, Titre I, du Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire.

Art. 4. Notre Ministre de la Justice est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait au Palais d'Abdine, le 26 Mars, 1900.

(Signé) ABBAS HILMI.

Par le Khédive:
Le Président du Conseil des Ministres,
(Signé) MOUSTAPHA FEHMY.
Le Ministre de la Justice,
(Signé) IBRAHIM FOUAD.
Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) BOUTROS GHALI.

Nous, Khédive d'Égypte,

Vu le Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire pour les Procès Mixtes en Égypte;

Après accord intervenu entre notre Gouvernement et les Puissances qui ont adhéré à la Réforme Judiciaire;

Sur la proposition de notre Ministre de la Justice et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres,

Décrétons:

Article 1er. Les mots "en ce qui concerne les inculpés étrangers" sont supprimés de l'intitulé du Titre II du Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire.

Art. 2. Les Articles 2 et 3, Titre II, Chapitre I, § 1, du Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire sont modifiés ainsi qu'il suit:—

"Article 2. La Chambre du Conseil, aussi bien en matière de délits qu'en matière de crimes, sera composée de trois Juges, dont un indigène et deux étrangers.

"Article 3. Le Tribunal Correctionnel sera composé de trois Juges, dont un indigène et deux étrangers, et de quatre Assesseurs étrangers, si l'inculpé est étranger. Si l'inculpé est indigène, la moitié des Assesseurs sera indigène."

Art. 3. L'Article 6, Titre II, Chapitre I, § 2, du Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire est modifié ainsi qu'il suit:—

"Article 6. Seront soumises à la juridiction des Tribunaux Mixtes;

"1. Les poursuites pour contravention de police commises par les étrangers;

"2. Les poursuites contre les auteurs ou les complices des délits prévus au Chapitre IX du Code Pénal dans les cas de faillites mixtes;

"3. Les poursuites contre les auteurs et complices des crimes et délits suivants:—

Art. 4. Ces dispositions entreront en vigueur un mois après la promulgation qui en sera faite dans les formes prévues par l'Article 35, Titre I, du Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire.

Art. 5. Les affaires de banqueroute déjà commencées devant les Tribunaux Indigènes ou devant les juridictions Consulaires au moment de l'entrée en vigueur des Décrets sur la compétence des Tribunaux Mixtes en matière de banqueroute, seront jugées par les juridictions déjà saisies.

Art. 6. Notre Ministre de la Justice est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait au Palais d'Abdine, le 26 Mars, 1900.

(Signé) ABBAS HILMI.

Par le Khédive:
Le Président du Conseil des Ministres,
(Signé) MOUSTAPHA FEHMY.
Le Ministre de la Justice,
(Signé) IBRAHIM FOUAD.
Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) BOUTROS GHALI

Nous K,hédive d'Égypte,

Vu le Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire pour les Procès Mixtes en Égypte;

Après accord intervenu entre notre Gouvernement et les Puissances qui ont adhéré à la Réforme Judiciaire;

Sur la proposition de notre Ministre de la Justice et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres,

Décrétons:

Article 1er. Les Articles 47 et 295 du Code Pénal Mixte sont modifiés ainsi qu'il suit:—

"Article 47. La durée de cette peine sera de vingt-quatre heures à une semaine en matière de contraventions, et de huit jours à trois ans, en matière de délits, sauf le cas prévu par l'Article 294 du Code Pénal.

"La peine commencera du moment où le coupable aura été écroué, s'il n'était pas détenu préventivement.

"Article 295 (nouveau 294). Les coupables de banqueroute frauduleuse et leurs complices seront punis d'un emprisonnement de deux à cinq ans."

Art. 2. Ces dispositions entreront en vigueur un mois après la promulgation qui en sera faite dans les formes prévues par l'Article 35, Titre I, du Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire.

Art. 3. Notre Ministre de la Justice est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait au Palais d'Abdine, le 26 Mars, 1900.

(Signé) ABBAS HILMI.

Par le Khédive:
Le Président du Conseil des Ministres,
Le Ministre de l'Intérieur,
(Signé) MOUSTAPHA FEHMY.
Le Ministre de la Justice,
(Signé) IBRAHIM FOUAD.
Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) BOUTROS GHALI.

Nous, Khédive d'Égypte,

Vu le Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire pour les Procès Mixtes en Égypte;

Après accord intervenu entre notre Gouvernement et les Puissances qui ont adhéré à la Réforme Judiciaire;

Sur la proposition de notre Ministre de la Justice et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres,

Décrétons:

Article 1er. Les Articles 18, 81, 82, et 100 du Code d'Instruction Criminelle Mixte sont modifiés comme suit:—

"Article 18. Dans le même cas de flagrant délit et lorsqu'il y aura présomption de crime ou de tentative de crime, ou d'un délit de vol, d'escroquerie, de banqueroute,

ou de violence grave, ou lorsque l'inculpé n'aura pas de domicile fixe et connu en Égypte, l'officier de Police Judiciaire pourra faire saisir le prévenu présent, contre lequel il y aurait des indices graves, et, après avoir entendu ses explications, il devra, s'il ne s'est justifié, l'envoyer dans les vingt-quatre heures au siège du Tribunal compétent, pour le mettre à la disposition du Parquet, sauf au Ministère Public à le faire interroger dans les vingt-quatre heures par le Juge d'Instruction.

"Article 81 (correspondant aux Articles 81 et 82 anciens). Lorsque l'inculpé ne se sera pas présenté sur la citation ou lorsque le fait incriminé sera de la nature indiquée à l'Article 18, le Juge d'Instruction pourra décerner immédiatement ou ultérieurement un mandat d'amener.

"Et si les présomptions paraissent suffisantes après l'interrogatoire, le Juge d'Instruction pourra soit décerner immédiatement ou ultérieuremeat un mandat d'arrêt, soit convertir le mandat d'amener en mandat d'arrêt.

"Article 82 (nouveau). A l'égard des inculpés de banqueroute frauduleuse et de leurs complices, le Juge d'Instruction pourra décerner un mandat d'amener sur réquisitoire du Ministère Public, même avant toute déclaration de faillite.

"Article 100. Sauf le cas prévu à l'Article 293 du Code Pénal, la mise en liberté provisoire sous caution sera de droit, en matière de délits, huit jours après l'interrogatoire, quand l'inculpé sera domicilié et qu'il n'aura pas subi une condamnation antérieure de plus d'une année d'emprisonnement."

Art. 2. Ces dispositions entreront en vigueur un mois après la promulgation qui en sera faite dans les formes prévues par l'Article 35, Titre I, du Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire.

Art. 3. Notre Ministre de la Justice est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait au Palais d'Abdine, le 26 Mars, 1900.

(Signé) ABBAS HILMI.

Par le Khédive:
Le Président du Conseil des Ministres,
(Signé) MOUSTAPHA FEHMY.
Le Ministre de la Justice,
(Signé) IBRAHIM FOUAD.
Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) BOUTROS GHALI.

Nous, Khédive d'gÉypte,

Vu le Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire pour les Procès Mixtes en Égypte;

Après accord intervenu entre notre Gouvernement et les Puissances qui ont adhéré à la Réforme Judiciaire;

Sur la proposition de notre Ministre de la Justice et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres,

Décrétons:

Article 1er. Les Articles 293 et 301 inclusivement du Code Pénal Mixte sont modifiés ainsi qu'il suit:—

"Article 293. Tout commerçant en état de cessation de paiements sera déclaré banqueroutier frauduleux dans les cas suivants:—

"1. S'il a soustrait, détruit, ou altéré ses livres;

"2. S'il a détourné ou dissimulé une partie de son actif au préjudice de ses créanciers:

"3. Si, soit dans ses écritures, son bilan ou un acte quelconque, soit même par une reconnaissance verbale ou pour avoir évité sciemment de produire des documents ou des explications, il ne sera frauduleusement reconnu ou fait reconnaître débiteur de sommes qu'il ne devait pas réellement.

"Article 294 (correspondant à l'ancien Article 295). Les coupables de banqueroute frauduleuse et leurs complices seront punis d'un emprisonnment de deux à cinq ans.

"Article 295 (nouveau et correspondant à l'ancien Article 297). Sera déclaré banqueroutier simple, en général, tout commerçant qui, par son imprudence ou sa faute

grave, aura été cause de la perte subie par ses créanciers et spécialement celui qui se trouvera dans les cas suivants:—

"1. Si ses dépenses personnelles ou les dépenses de sa maison ont été jugées excessives;

"2. S'il a consommé de fortes sommes au jeu, à des opérations de pur hasard ou à des opérations fictives de Bourse ou sur marchandises;

"3. Si, dans l'intention de retarder sa faillite, il a fait des achats pour revendre au-dessous des cours; si, dans la même intention, il s'est livré à des emprunts, circulations d'effets et autres moyens ruineux de se procurer des fonds;

"4. S'il a obtenu un concordat au moyen de manœuvres frauduleuses.

"Article 296 (nouveau et correspondant à l'ancien Article 298). Pourra être déclaré banqueroutier simple tout commerçant qui se trouvera dans un des cas suivants:—

"1. S'il n'a pas tenu les livres exigés par l'Article 12 du Code de Commerce, ou n'a pas fait l'inventaire prescrit par l'Article 14; ou si ses livres, incomplets et irrégulièrement tenus, n'offrent pas sa véritable situation active et passive, sans néanmoins qu'il y ait fraude;

"2. S'il n'est pas conforme aux Articles 20 et 23 du Code de Commerce;

"3. S'il n'a pas fait la déclaration de la cessation de ses paiements dans le délai prescrit par l'Article 202 du Code de Commerce ou s'il n'a pas fait le dépôt du bilan prescrit par les Articles 203 et 204, ou si les renseignements prescrits par ces dernières dispositions sont reconnus inexacts;

"4. Si, sans empêchement légitime, il ne s'est pas rendu en personne aux convocations du Juge-Commissaire ou s'il n'a pas fourni les renseignements demandés par celui-ci, ou si les renseignements fournis sont inexacts;

"5. Si, après la cession de ses paiements, il a sciemment payé ou favorisé un créancier au préjudice de la masse ou s'il lui a permis un avantage particulier en vue d'obtenir son adhésion à un concordat.

"6. S'il est déclaré en faillite avant d'avoir satisfait aux obligations d'un précédent concordat.

"Article 297 (nouveau). Dans le cas de faillite d'une Société Anonyme ou par actions, les Administrateurs et Directeurs de la Société seront passibles des peines de la banqueroute frauduleuse, s'ils sont reconnus coupables d'un des faits prévus par l'Article 293 de ce Code ou s'ils ont occasionné la faillite de la Société par fraude ou dol, et notamment s'ils ont contribué à la cessation des paiements de la Société, soit en indiquant faussement le capital souscrit ou versé, soit en distribuant des dividendes fictifs, soit en s'attribuant dolosivement des prélèvements supérieurs à ceux autorisés par le contrat social.

"Article 298 (nouveau). Dans le même cas, ces Administrateurs et Directeurs seront passibles des peines de la banqueroute simple:—

"1. S'ils sont reconnus coupables d'un des faits prévus par les Articles 295, Nos. 2 et 3, et 296, Nos. 1, 3, 4, et 5, de ce Code;

"2. S'ils ont dolosivement omis de publier le contrat social dans les formes voulues par la loi;

"3. S'ils ont coopéré ou donné leur assentiment à des actes contraires aux Statuts de la Société.

"Article 299 (ancien). Le coupable de banqueroute simple sera puni de la peine d'un mois à deux ans d'emprisonnement.

"Article 300 (correspondant aux Articles 294 et 300). Seront punis de trois mois à trois ans de prison, en dehors des cas de complicité légale:

"1. Toutes personnes, même le conjoint et les descendants ou ascendants du failli ou alliés au même degré, qui auront soustrait, dissimulé ou recélé tout ou partie de l'actif mobilier ou immobilier du failli;

"2. Ceux qui, sans être créanciers, auront frauduleusement pris part aux délibérations d'un concordat ou présenté dans la faillite et affirmé, soit en leur nom, soit par interposition de personnes, des créances supposées;

"3. Ceux qui, étant créanciers, auront frauduleusement exagéré leurs créances ou stipulé, soit avec le failli, soit avec toutes autres personnes, des avantages particuliers à raison ou sous prétexte de leur vote dans les délibérations d'un concordat ou d'une faillite, ou qui auront fait un traite particulier à leur avantage et au préjudice de la masse;

"4. Les Syndics qui se seront rendus coupables de malversation dans leur gestion.

"Article 301 (nouveau). Dans les cas prévus par la disposition précédente, les

coupables pourront, en outre, être condamnés à une amende de 100 à 10,000 piastres au tarif.

"Le Tribunal saisi statuera en même temps et d'office sur les restitutions dues à la masse ainsi que, le cas échéant, sur les dommages-intérêts réclamés au nom de la masse, alors même qu'il y aurait acquittement."

Art. 2. L'Article 302 actuel du Code Pénal est reporté en tête du Chapitre X, traitant des abus de confiance.

Art. 3. Ces dispositions entreront en vigueur un mois après la promulgation qui en sera faite dans les formes prévues par l'Article 35, Titre I, du Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire.

Art. 4. Notre Ministre de la Justice est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait au Palais d'Abdine, le 26 Mars, 1900.

(Signé) ABBAS HILMI.

Par le Khédive:

Le Président du Conseil des Ministres,
(Signé) MOUSTAPHA FEHMY.

Le Ministre de la Justice,
(Signé) IBRAHIM FOUAD.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) BOUTROS GHALI.

Nous, Khédive d'Égypte,

Vu le Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire pour les Procès Mixtes en Égypte;

Après accord intervenu entre notre Gouvernement et les Puissances qui ont adhéré à la Réforme Judiciaire:

Sur la proposition de notre Ministre de la Justice et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres,

Décrétons:

Article 1er. Les Articles 202 à 218 inclusivement du Chapitre III, § 1, du Code de Commerce Mixte, sont modifiés ainsi qu'il suit:—

"Article 202 (correspondant aux anciens Articles 202 et 205). Tout commerçant qui cesse ses paiements pour raison d'insolvabilité actuelle est en état de faillité. Il est tenu d'en faire la déclaration au greffe du Tribunal de son domicile dans les quinze jours de la cessation de ses paiements.

"En cas de faillite d'une Société en nom collectif ou en commandite, la déclaration contiendra le nom et l'indication du domicile de chacun des associés solidaires.

"Article 203 (correspondant aux anciens Articles 206 et 207). La déclaration du failli devra être accompagnée du dépôt du bilan ou contenir l'indication des motifs qui empêcheraient le failli de le déposer.

"Le bilan contiendra l'énumération et évaluation de tous les biens mobiliers et immobiliers du débiteur, l'état des dettes et des créances, le Tableau des profits et pertes, le Tableau des dépenses; il devra être certifié véritable, daté et signé par le débiteur.

"Article 204 (correspondant aux anciens Articles 202 et 203). La faillite du commerçant qui a cessé ses paiements sera déclarée par jugement rendu soit sur la déclaration du failli, soit à la demande d'un ou de plusieurs de ses créanciers, soit sur la réquisition du Ministère Public, soit d'office.

"Article 205 (nouveau). Toutefois le commerçant malheureux et de bonne foi, qui se sera conformé aux dispositions des Articles 202 et 203, pourra demander, en même temps qu'il fait sa déclaration, à être admis à bénéficier d'un concordat préventif.

"Ce concordat pourra être également accordé au commerçant assigné en déclaration de faillite, ou déclaré en faillite d'office, pourvu qu'il se trouve encore dans le délai prévu par l'Article 202, ainsi qu'au commerçant décédé, à la requête de ses représentants légaux, dans le cas où le débiteur aurait pu l'obtenir lui-même. Le concordat préventif peut être accordé aux Sociétés commerciales.

"Article 206 (nouveau). Si la demande paraît suffisamment justifiée, le Tribunal désignera un de ses membres, qui procédera aux opérations suivantes:—

"1. Il arrêtera et signera les livres du débiteur et procédera à la vérification de la situation.

"2. Il décidera si et dans quelles conditions le débiteur peut être autorisé à continuer provisoirement son commerce et pourra ordonner toutes les mesures urgentes.

"3. Il convoquera les créanciers devant lui aux fins de se prononcer sur l'admission d'un concordat préventif et donnera lecture à l'assemblée d'un rapport sur la bonne foi du débiteur, la situation de ses affaires et ses propositions concordataires.

"A partir du Jugement désignant le Juge-Commissaire, les actions mobilières et immobilières et toutes voies d'exécution seront suspendues de plein droit au profit du débiteur.

"Ce Jugement ne sera susceptible d'aucun recours.

"Article 207 (nouveau). Les créanciers seront convoqués conformément à l'Article 254.

"Le concordat préventif ne pourra être valablement consenti que par une majorité de créanciers représentant les trois quarts des créances.

"Le Juge-commis dressera procès-verbal de la délibération et renverra la cause à la première audience utile.

"Article 208. Le Tribunal ne statuera sur l'homologation du concordat qu'après avoir entendu le Juge-commis ainsi que le débiteur ou son fondé de pouvoirs et les créanciers, s'ils se présentent, et après avoir au préalable décidé par provision, le cas échéant, sur l'admission des créances contestées, conformément à l'Article 313 du présent Code.

"Sauf en ce qui concerne les créances alimentaires, le concordat ainsi homologué sera obligatoire pour tous les créanciers chirographaires.

"Le Jugement d'homologation sera affiché et publié par les soins du greffe dans les trois jours de sa date conformément à l'Article 222 de ce Code.

"Il ne pourra être attaqué que par la voie de l'opposition dans le mois de sa publication et seulement de la part des créanciers qui n'auront pas été régulièrement convoqués et qui n'auront pas pris part au concordat.

"Néanmoins ce concordat reste soumis aux causes d'annulation et de résolution édictées à l'égard du concordat après faillite par les Articles 341 et 342 de ce Code.

"Article 209 (nouveau). Sauf Convention contraire, l'intégrale exécution du concordat entraîne la libération du débiteur.

"Article 210 (nouveau). Si pendant le cours de l'instruction de la demande en obtention du concordat préventif, le Tribunal acquiert la conviction que le débiteur n'est pas malheureux et de bonne foi, il pourra à tout moment le déclarer en faillite.

"Article 211 (correspondant aux Articles 208 et 212). La demande en déclaration de faillite sera introduite par les créanciers, soit dans les formes ordinaires des demandes en justice, soit par une requête au Tribunal déposée au greffe où elle sera immédiatement enregistrée par extrait.

"Article 212 (correspondant aux Articles 209 et 210). Cette requête doit contenir la preuve ou l'indication des faits desquels il résulte que le débiteur a en effet cessé ses paiements.

"Le Président, sur la communication qui lui en est faite, fixera le jour de l'audience.

"Article 213 (correspondant à l'Article 211). Dans les cas urgents, le Président peut ordonner l'apposition des scellés ou toute autre mesure conservatoire.

"Article 214 (correspondant aux Articles 212, § 2, et 214). Il ne sera statué sur la faillite demandée par le Ministère Public qu'après avis donné au débiteur par lettres du greffe, du jour de l'audience fixé par le Président.

"L'avis pourra être donné à vingt-quatre heures ou même d'heure en heure, en cas d'extrême urgence.

"Article 215 (correspondant aux Articles 215 et 216). La faillite sera demandée par le Ministère Public ou prononcée d'office sans avis et sans délai, si le débiteur est en fuite ou s'il détourne son actif.

"En ce cas les mesures conservatoires seront ordonnées par le Président du Tribunal de Commerce ou par le Juge de service.

"Article 216 (correspondant à l'Article 213). Le débiteur sera toujours entendu en Chambre du Conseil, avant l'audience publique, s'il le demande.

"Article 217 (nouveau). En cas de faillite d'une Société Anonyme ou par actions,

les actes de procédure devront être faits contre les Administrateurs, Directeurs, et liquidateurs.

"Ceux-ci seront tenus de comparaître devant le Juge-Commissaire toutes les fois qu'ils en seront requis aux fins de donner les indications nécessaires à la formation ou vérification du bilan et de s'expliquer sur les causes et les circonstances de la faillite.

"Il devront être entendus, comme représentants de la Société en faillite, dans tous les cas où la loi exige que le failli soit entendu.

"Article 218 (correspondant aux anciens Articles 217 et 218). La faillite du commerçant décédé pourra être demandée et prononcée à la condition qu'il soit établi qu'il est mort en état de cessation de paiements et que la demande ait été introduite dans les six mois du décès.

"L'avis ou la citation seront en ce cas remis à la maison mortuaire sans qu'il soit besoin de désigner les héritiers."

Art. 2. Ces dispositions entreront en vigueur un mois après la promulgation qui en sera faite dans les formes prévues par l'Article 35, Titre I, du Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire.

Art. 3. Notre Ministre de la Justice est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait au Palais d'Abdine, le 26 Mars, 1900.

(Signé) ABBAS HILMI.

Par le Khédive:

Le Président du Conseil des Ministres,
(Signé) MOUSTAPHA FEHMY.

Le Ministre de la Justice,
(Signé) IBRAHIM FOUAD.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) BOUTROS GHALI.

Nous, Khédive d'Égypte,

Vu le Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire pour les Procès Mixtes en Égypte;

Après accord intervenu entre notre Gouvernement et les Puissances qui ont adhéré à la Réforme Judiciaire;

Sur la proposition de notre Ministre de la Justice et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres,

Décrétons:

Article 1er. Les Articles ci-après du Code de Commerce Mixte sont modifiés ainsi qu'il suit:—

CHAPITRE III.

Section III.

"Article 247. Par le Jugement déclaratif de la faillite, le Tribunal de Commerce ordonnera l'apposition des scellés sur le magasin et les effets du failli.

'Le même Jugement ou tout Jugement ultérieur pourra ordonner en outre l'emprisonnement du failli ou la garde de sa personne par un officier de police ou du Tribunal.

"Article 248. L'emprisonnement ou la garde du failli seront ordonnés lorsque le failli ne se sera pas conformé aux dispositions des Articles 202 et 203 du présent Code.

Section IV.

"Article 256 (ancien Article 257). Le nombre des syndics pourra être à toute époque porté jusqu'à trois; les syndics définitifs pourront être choisis parmi les personnes étrangères à la masse, et recevoir, quelle que soit leur qualité, aprés avoir rendu compte de leur gestion, une indemnité que le Tribunal arbitrera sur le rapport du Juge-Commissaire, et, sauf opposition à la taxe dans la quinzaine, par toute partie intéressée.

"Article 257 (ancien Article 258). Aucun parent ou allié du failli jusqu'au sixième degré inclusivement ne pourra être nommé syndic.

"Article 258 (nouveau). Les créanciers, lors de leur première réunion ou de toute réunion ultérieure, pourront déléguer à un ou trois d'entre eux la mission de

surveiller la gestion des syndics. Les créanciers délégués auront la faculté d'examiner les livres, registres et pièces de la faillite et de provoquer toute mesure dans l'intérêt de la masse.

"Article 259 (nouveau). Les fonctions des Délégués sont gratuites.

"Ils pourront se donner réciproquement le pouvoir d'agir l'un pour l'autre.

"Ils ne pourront être révoqués que par jugement du Tribunal de Commerce, sur l'avis conforme de la majorité des créanciers et le rapport du Juge-Commissaire.

"Article 264 (modifié et correspondant aux Articles 256, 257, § 1, 259, 264, et 265, § 1), Le Tribunal de Commerce pourra, à toutes les époques, révoquer les syndics ou l'un d'eux, les remplacer par d'autres en augmenter ou en diminuer le nombre, soit à la requête du failli ou de ses créanciers, soit à la diligence du Juge-Commissaire, soit même d'office.

"Article 265 (correspondant au § 2 de l'ancien Article 265). Le Tribunal entendra en Chambre du Conseil les explications des syndics, dont la révocation serait demandée, ainsi que le rapport du Juge-Commissaire et prononcera le Jugement à l'audience.

"Article 266 correspondant à l'ancien Article 266). Le simple remplacement du syndic, s'il n'y a aucun tort à lui reprocher, sera prononcé en Chambre du Conseil par une décision non motivée.

"Article 269 (correspondant aux anciens Articles 269 et 270). La vente des objets sujets à dépérissement ou à dépréciation imminente ou dispendieux à conserver, et l'exploitation du fonds de commerce, auront lieu à la diligence des syndics, sur l'autorisation du Juge-Commissaire, qui déterminera le mode et les conditions de la vente, le failli et la délégation des créanciers entendus ou dûment appelés.

"Article 270 (nouveau). Les actions à intenter par le syndic ou à suivre dans l'intérêt de la masse devront être autorisées par le Juge-Commissaire, qui prendra l'avis de la délégation des créanciers.

"Article 273. Le failli pourra obtenir des secours alimentaires, qui seront fixés par le Juge-Commissaire, après avoir entendu les syndics et la délégation des créanciers, sauf recours au Tribunal de la part de tout intéressé.

"Article 280. En toute faillite les syndics, dans la quinzaine du jugement déclaratif de faillite, seront tenus de remettre au Juge-Commissaire un mémoire ou compte sommaire de l'état apparent de la faillite, de ses principales causes et circonstances et du caractère qu'elle peut avoir.

Copie de ce mémoire sera communiquée à la délégation des créanciers.

"Article 286 (nouveau). Sauf le cas prévu par l'Article 269, les effets mobiliers ou fonds de commerce ne pourront être vendus, avant le rejet du concordat, qu'en vertu d'une autorisation du Tribunal, réuni en Chambre du Conseil, qui sur le rapport du Juge-Commissaire et le failli ainsi que la délégation des créanciers entendus ou dûment appelés, déterminera le mode et les conditions de la vente.

"Article 287. Les syndics pourront, le failli et la délégation des créanciers entendus ou dûment appelés, transiger sur toutes contestations qui intéressent la masse, même sur celles qui sont relatives à des droits et actions immobiliers. Si l'objet de la transaction est d'une valeur indéterminée ou s'il excède 1,000 piastres, la transaction ne sera obligatoire qu'après avoir été homologuée par le Tribunal de Commerce pour les transactions relatives à des droits mobiliers, et par le Tribunal Civil pour les transactions relatives à des droits immobiliers."

Art. 2. Ces dispositions entreront en vigueur un mois après la promulgation qui en sera faite dans les formes prévues par l'Article 31, Titre I, du Règlement d'Oganisation Judiciaire.

Art. 3. Notre Ministre de la Justice est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait au Palais d'Abdine, le 26 Mars, 1900.

(Signé) ABBAS HILMI.

Par le Khédive:

Le Président du Conseil des Ministres,
(Signé) MOUSTAPHA FEHMY.

Le Ministre de la Justice,
(Signé) IBRAHIM FOUAD.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) BOUTROS GHALI.

Nous, Khédive d'Égypte,
Vu le Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire pour les Procès Mixtes en Égypte ;
Après accord intervenu entre notre Gouvernement et les Puissances qui ont adhéré à la Réforme Judiciaire ;
Sur la proposition de notre Ministre de la Justice et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres,

Décrétons :

Article 1er. La disposition suivante est ajoutée à l'Article 27, Chapitre II, Titre I, du Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire des Tribunaux Mixtes :—

"Dans tous les cas prévus par le Chapitre IX du Code Pénal, si les poursuites sont dirigées contre un étranger, les fonctions du Ministère Public devront être remplies par un membre du Parquet de nationalité étrangère.

"A défaut d'un membre du Parquet étranger, la Cour déléguera un Conseiller ou un Juge étranger pour en remplir les fonctions."

Art. 2. Ces dispositions entreront en vigueur un mois après la promulgation qui en sera faite dans les formes prévues par l'Article 35, Titre I, du Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire.

Art. 3. Notre Ministre de la Justice est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait au Palais d'Abdine, le 26 Mars, 1900.

(Signé) ABBAS HILMI.

Par le Khédive :
Le Président du Conseil des Ministres,
(Signé) MOUSTAPHA FEHMY.
Le Ministre de la Justice,
(Signé) IBRAHIM FOUAD.
Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) BOUTROS GHALI.

Nous, Khédive d'Égypte,
Vu le Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire pour les Procès Mixtes en Égypte ;
Après accord intervenu entre notre Gouvernement et les Puissances qui ont adhéré à la Réforme Judiciaire ;
Sur la proposition de notre Ministre de la Justice et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres,

Décrétons :

Article 1er. L'Article 741 du Code Civil des Tribunaux Mixtes est modifié ainsi qu'il suit :—

"Article 741. Les privilèges sur les immeubles, autres que les impôts et dîmes dus au Trésor Public, les frais de justice et les salaires des gens de service, commis ou ouvriers, ainsi que le droit d'hypothèque, devront également être inscrits au greffe des hypothèques, dans les formes spécifiées plus loin."

Art. 2. Ces dispositions entreront en vigueur un mois après la publication qui en sera faite dans les formes prévues par l'Article 35, Titre I, du Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire.

Art. 3. Notre Ministre de la Justice est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait au Palais d'Abdine, le 26 Mars, 1900.

(Signé) ABBAS HILMI.

Par le Khédive :
Le Président du Conseil des Ministres,
(Signé) MOUSTAPHA FEHMY.
Le Ministre de la Justice,
(Signé) IBRAHIM FOUAD.
Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) BOUTROS GHALI.

Nous, Khédive d'Égypte,
Vu le Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire pour les Procès Mixtes en Égypte ;
Après accord intervenu entre notre Gouvernement et les Puissances qui ont adhéré à la Réforme Judiciaire ;
Sur la proposition de notre Ministre de la Justice et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres,

Décrétons :

Article 1er. Les Articles 28, 32, 33, 390, et 398, du Code de Procédure Civile et Commerciale des Tribunaux Mixtes sont modifiés ainsi qu'il suit :—

"Article 28. Un Juge délégué par le Tribunal statuera en Tribunal de Justice Sommaire sur les affaires suivantes :—

"1. En dernier ressort, sur les affaires civiles purement personnelles ou mobilières et sur les affaires commerciales dont la valeur déterminée n'excédera pas P. E. 1,000 et, à charge d'appel, sur les affaires de même nature jusqu'à P. E. 10,000, sans préjudice de la compétence exclusive du Tribunal de Commerce en matière de faillite ;

"2. Dans les mêmes limites du dernier ressort et à charge d'appel, à quelque somme que s'élève la demande, sur les actions en paiement de loyers, fermages, en validité de saisie des meubles garnissant les lieux loués, en congé, ou résiliation ou expulsion des lieux loués, quand le prix de la location n'excédera pas annuellement P. E. 10,000 ;

"3. Dans les mêmes limites du dernier ressort, et à charge d'appel, quel que soit le montant de la demande, sur les actions pour dommages aux champs, fruits, et récoltes, soit par le fait de l'homme, soit par celui des animaux ; celles relatives au curage des canaux et celles relatives au paiement des gages et salaires des domestiques, ouvriers, et employés ;

"4. A charge d'appel, dans tous les cas, et quel que soit l'intérêt de la demande, sur les actions possessoires intentées par celui qui a possédé plus d'une année, ainsi que sur les actions en réintégrande, pourvu que ces actions soient fondées sur des faits commis dans l'année et lorsque la propriété n'est pas contestée, sur les actions en bornage et sur celles relatives à la distance fixée par la loi, les règlements, ou l'usage, pour les constructions, ouvrages nuisibles, ou plantations.

"Le Jugement devra énoncer, dans tous les cas, s'il est statué en matière civile ou commerciale.

"Article 32. Le Tribunal Civil connaîtra, en première instance, de toutes les affaires civiles autres que celles qui sont déférées au Tribunal de Justice Sommaire, et, en appel, de tous les Jugements rendus par ce dernier Tribunal en toutes matières autres que les actions possessoires et en réintégrande et les actions locatives de biens Wakfs qui seront portées devant la Cour d'Appel.

"Le Tribunal Civil statuant en appel pourra, à la demande d'une des parties, par décision non susceptible d'appel ou d'opposition, s'adjoindre deux Assesseurs, s'il juge que l'affaire est commerciale.

"Article 33. Le Tribunal de Commerce connaîtra, en première instance, de toutes les affaires qui sont considérées comme commerciales d'après les règles établies au Code de Commerce, autres que celles qui sont déférées au Tribunal de Justice Sommaire.

"Article 390. Les parties en cause pourront appeler :

"1. Des Jugements rendus par les Tribunaux Civils ou de Commerce quand la demande excédera P. E. 10,000 ou que le montant de cette demande sera indéterminée ;

"2. Des Jugements rendus par les Tribunaux de Justice Sommaire dans les conditions établies par l'Article 28 du présent Code.

"Article 398. Le délai pour former appel sera de trente jours pour les Jugements du Tribunal de Justice Sommaire et de soixante jours pour les Jugements des Tribunaux Civils et de Commerce, à partir de la signification du Jugement à personne ou au domicile réel ou élu.

Art. 2. Ces dispositions entreront en vigueur un mois après la publication qui en sera faite dans les formes prévues par l'Article 35, Titre I, du Règlement d' Organisation Judiciaire.

Art. 3. Notre Ministre de la Justice est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait au Palais d'Abdine, le 26 Mars, 1900.

(Signé) ABBAS HILMI.

Par le Khédive :
Le Président du Conseil des Ministres,
(Signé) MOUSTAPHA FEHMY.
Le Ministre de la Justice,
(Signé) IBRAHIM FOUAD.
Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) BOUTROS GHALI.

Nous, Khédive d'Égypte,

Vu notre Décret du 25 Mars, 1880 ;

Après accord intervenu entre notre Gouvernement et les Puissances qui ont adhéré à la Réforme Judiciaire ;

Sur la proposition de notre Ministre de la Justice et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres,

Décrétons :

Article 1er. Le procès-verbal de saisie immobilière mentionné à l'Article 11 de notre Décret sus-visé du 25 Mars, 1880, sera en outre notifié, dans le délai de quinze jours de sa date, au Parquet du Tribunal Mixte de la situation des biens, qui visera l'original.

Le Parquet, de son côté, dénoncera sans frais le dit procès-verbal aux créanciers inscrits au greffe des hypothèques des Tribunaux Mixtes, s'il y en a, en leur domicile réel ou élu, dans un délai de trente jours de la date du visa du Parquet.

Art. 2. Il ne pourra être procédé à la vente de l'immeuble que dans le délai de vingt jours au moins et soixante-quinze jours au plus après la dénonciation du procès-verbal de saisie aux créanciers inscrits.

Art. 3. La saisie et éventuellement l'adjudication seront limitées, autant que possible, à la partie de l'immeuble qui sera jugée suffisante pour couvrir la dette d'impôt et les frais.

Dans le cas où le prix de l'adjudication serait supérieur au montant des causes de la saisie, y compris les frais et les impôts échus depuis le commandement, l'excédent sera remis au contribuable, à moins que, dans le délai de trente jours à partir de la vente, opposition n'ait été pratiquée à la requête d'un créancier inscrit, auquel cas cet excédent sera versé par les soins de l'Administration à la caisse du Tribunal Mixte de la situation de l'immeuble, pour en être disposé comme de droit.

Avis de la vente sera inséré au "Journal Officiel" (texte Arabe et texte Français).

Art. 4. Jusqu'au moment de l'adjudication définitive, les créanciers inscrits sur l'immeuble auront toujours la faculté d'arrêter les poursuites, en payant les impôts réclamés et les frais.

Ce payement emportera en leur faveur subrogation légale dans les droits et privilèges du Trésor, sans qu'il soit besoin d'inscription.

Art. 5. En aucun cas la saisie et la vente ne pourront être suspendues soit par des contestations relatives aux impôts dus, soit pour une exécution immobilière, à moins que celui qui conteste ou le créancier poursuivant ne dépose à la caisse de la Moudirieh ou du Gouvernorat le montant des sommes pour lesquelles la saisie ou la vente est poursuivie.

Les sommes ainsi déposées seront définitivement acquises au Trésor, faute par les contestants d'avoir fait valoir leurs droits, après l'expiration d'un délai de six mois à partir de la date du dépôt.

Art. 6. L'apposition des affiches et des placards, dont il est parlé aux Articles 12 et 14 du Décret, sera constatée par un procès-verbal signé ou cacheté par l'agent de la Moudirieh.

Dispositions Générales.

Art. 7. L'adjudication purge toutes les hypothèques ou affectations hypothécaires.

Le procès-verbal d'adjudication sera, dans la quinzaine de sa date, transmis par la Moudirieh au Parquet du Tribunal Mixte de la situation de l'immeuble, qui le fera transcrire d'office et sans frais.

Art. 8. La créance pour impôt et dîmes se prescrit par trois ans, calculés d'après le calendrier Grégorien.

Cette prescription n'est susceptible ni de suspension ni d'interruption. Cette disposition ne s'applique pas aux créanciers hypothécaires subrogés dans les conditions de l'Article 4 ci-dessus.

Art. 9. Ces dispositions entreront en vigueur un mois après la publication qui en sera faite dans les formes prévues par l'Article 35, Titre 1, du Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire.

Art. 10. Notre Ministre de la Justice est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait au Palais d'Abdine, le 26 Mars, 1900.

(Signé) ABBAS HILMI.

Par le Khédive :
Le Président du Conseil des Ministres,
(Signé) MOUSTAPHA FEHMY.
Le Ministre de la Justice,
(Signé) IBRAHIM FOUAD.
Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) BOUTROS GHALI.

Nous, Khédive d'Égypte,

Vu le Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire pour les Procès Mixtes en Égypte,

Vu les Codes Civil et de Procédure Civile et Commerciale Mixtes,

Après accord intervenu entre notre Gouvernement et les Puissances qui ont adhéré à la Réforme Judiciaire,

Sur la proposition de notre Ministre de la Justice et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres,

Décrétons :

CHAPITRE I.

Article 1er. Le droit de préemption appartient :

1. Au co-propriétaire indivis de l'immeuble vendu ;

2. Au propriétaire voisin dans les cas suivants :

S'il s'agit de constructions ou de terrains destinés à être bâtis, situés dans une ville ou dans un village ;

Si pour le service du terrain vendu une servitude est établie sur le terrain du propriétaire voisin ou si celui-ci a un droit de servitude sur le terrain vendu ;

Si les deux terrains sont contigus de deux côtés et que la valeur de celui du préempteur représente au moins la moitié de la valeur de l'autre.

Art. 2. Est considéré comme co-propriétaire celui qui a un droit d'usufruit sur tout ou partie de l'immeuble vendu.

Il peut exercer le droit de préemption si le nu-propriétaire ne l'exerce pas lui-même.

Art. 3. Il n'y a pas lieu à préemption si la vente est faite aux enchères publiques par autorité administrative ou en justice par voie de licitation ou d'expropriation.

Il en est de même s'il s'agit de vente entre ascendants et descendants, entre mari et femme ou entre parents jusqu'au troisième degré.

Art. 4. Le droit de préemption ne peut s'exercer au profit d'un Wakf.

Art. 5. Ce droit n'existe ni contre le donataire ni contre celui qui a acquis autrement que par vente.

Art. 6. La préemption n'est pas non plus admise si l'immeuble vendu est destiné à l'exercice d'un culte ou doit être annexé à un immeuble déjà affecté à cet usage.

Art. 7. En cas de concours de plusieurs préempteurs, le droit de préemption appartient :

En premier lieu au nu-propriétaire ;
En deuxième lieu au co-propriétaire indivis ;
En troisième lieu à l'usufruitier ;
En quatrième lieu au propriétaire voisin.

S'il y a concours de plusieurs nu-propriétaires, co-propriétaires ou usufruitiers, le droit de préemption appartiendra à chacun d'eux dans la proportion de ses droits.

Entre voisins la préférence appartiendra à celui qui peut tirer de la préemption un plus grand avantage pour son fonds.

Art. 8. Le droit de préemption subsiste et la règle établie à l'Article précédent qui détermine la préférence, est applicable même dans le cas où l'acquéreur se trouverait dans les conditions prévues à l'Article 1er pour se rendre lui-même préempteur.

Art. 9. Lorsque l'immeuble sujet à préemption aura été revendu avant qu'aucune déclaration de préemption n'ait été faite et transcrite comme il est dit à l'Article 14 qui suit, l'action en préemption ne pourra s'exercer que contre le deuxième acquéreur et suivant les conditions de son contrat.

Art. 10. Si, avant la déclaration de préemption, l'acquéreur a fait des constructions ou des plantations sur l'immeuble, le préempteur est tenu de rembourser, suivant l'option de l'acquéreur, soit la somme dépensée, soit le montant de la plus-value que ces constructions ou plantations ont apportée à l'immeuble.

Si les constructions ou plantations sont faites postérieurement à la déclaration de préemption, le préempteur peut exiger qu'elles soient enlevées. S'il préfère les garder, il n'est tenu qu'au paiement des matériaux et de la main-d'œuvre ou au remboursement des frais de plantations. Néanmoins les dépenses nécessaires pour la conservation de l'immeuble devront toujours être remboursées à l'acquéreur préempté.

Art. 11. Si un immeuble est vendu indivisément à plusieurs personnes, le droit de préemption ne peut s'exercer que sur l'immeuble entier; si au contraire dans le contrat de vente l'immeuble a été partagé entre les acquéreurs, le droit de préemption pourra s'exercer soit sur la totalité de l'immeuble, soit sur une ou plusieurs quotes-parts, en se conformant aux règles établies pour l'exercice du droit de préemption.

Chapitre II.—*Des Effets de la Préemption.*

Art. 12. Sont sans effet à l'égard du préempteur les inscriptions hypothécaires et les affectations spéciales prises contre l'acquéreur, de même que toutes ventes et tous autres droits réels par lui consentis ou acquis contre lui, postérieurement à la date de la transcription qui devra être faite de la déclaration de la préemption, conformément à l'Article 14 ci-après. Néanmoins, les créanciers privilégiés ou hypothécaires conserveront leurs droits de préférence sur le prix de l'immeuble revenant au préempté.

Art. 13. Le préempteur est subrogé vis-à-vis du vendeur dans tous les droits ainsi que dans toutes les obligations de l'acquéreur.

Il ne peut toutefois bénéficier des termes de paiement accordés à l'acquéreur, si le vendeur n'y consent.

Dans le cas où, après la préemption, l'immeuble serait revendiqué par des tiers, le préempteur ne pourra exercer son droit de recours que contre le vendeur.

Chapitre III.—*De la Procédure à suivre en matière de Préemption et de la Déchéance.*

Art. 14. Celui qui voudra exercer le droit de préemption devra en faire la déclaration par un acte d'huissier signifié tant au vendeur qu'à l'acheteur. Cet acte contiendra l'offre du prix et de ses légitimes accessoires.

Pour produire ses effets au regard des tiers, cet acte devra être transcrit au Bureau des Hypothèques du Tribunal Mixte de la situation des biens.

S'il s'agit d'une affaire entre indigènes, il suffira que la dite transcription se fasse au greffe du Tribunal Indigène de Première Instance de la situation de l'immeuble à préempter; mais ce Tribunal devra en transmettre copie au Bureau Hypothécaire du Tribunal Mixte de la situation de l'immeuble pour y être transcrite d'office. C'est à partir de cette denière transcription seulement que la déclaration produira ses effets au regard des tiers de nationalité étrangère.

Les dispositions du présent Article relatives à la transcription de la Déclaration et à ses effets seront applicables à la transcription du Jugement de préemption prévu à l'Article 18 ci-après.

Art. 15. La demande en préemption doit, à peine de déchéance, être introduite contre le vendeur et l'acquérir devant le Tribunal de la situation de l'immeuble dans le délai de trente jours à partir de la signification de l'acte prévu à l'Article 14.

Art. 16. Elle sera toujours jugée d'urgence.

Art. 17. Le Jugement ne sera pas susceptible d'opposition.

Le délai d'appel sera de quinze jours à partir de la signification du Jugement.

Art. 18. Le Jugement qui fait définitivement droit à la demande en préemption sera considéré comme titre de propriété pour le préempteur: il devra être transcrit d'office.

Art. 19. Le droit de préemption ne peut plus être exercé dans les cas suivants:—

1. S'il y a eu renonciation expresse ou tacite.

La renonciation tacite résulte de tout acte impliquant que le préempteur a reconnu l'acquéreur comme propriétaire définitif de l'immeuble vendu.

2. Si la personne ayant le droit de préemption n'a pas déclaré son intention de l'exercer dans les quinze jours à partir du moment où elle a eu connaissance de la vente ou de la date de la mise en demeure qui lui aurait été signifiée soit par le vendeur, soit par l'acquéreur.

Ce délai de quinze jours sera augmenté du délai de distance, s'il y a lieu.

Art. 20. Le fait de la renonciation tacite au droit de préemption, de même que le fait de la connaissance de la vente, pourront être prouvés par tous les moyens légaux et même par témoins.

Art. 21. La mise en demeure prévue au même paragraphe 2 de l'Article 19 sera signifiée par acte d'huissier et devra à peine de nullité contenir:—

1. Une description exacte de l'immeuble soumis à la préemption avec désignation de sa situation, de ses limites, et de sa contenance;

2. L'indication du prix et des charges de la vente, avec l'indication des noms, prénoms, profession, et domicile du vendeur et de l'acheteur.

Art. 22. Dans tous les cas le droit de préemption est prescrit contre tous préempteurs à l'expiration du délai de six mois à partir du jour de la transcription de l'acte de vente.

Cette prescription court même contre les incapables et les absents.

Art. 23. Les Articles 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 89, 100, et 101 du Code Civil et 719 du Code de Procédure Mixtes sont abrogés.

Art. 24. Ces dispositions entreront en vigueur un mois après la publication qui en sera faite dans les formes prévues par l'Article 35, Titre I, du Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire.

Art. 25. Notre Ministre de la Justice est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait au Palais d'Abdine, le 26 Mars, 1900.

(Signé) ABBAS HILMI.

Par le Khédive:

Le Président du Conseil des Ministres,
(Signé) Moustapha Fehmy.

Le Ministre de la Justice,
(Signé) Ibrahim Fouad.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) Boutros Ghali.

No. 42.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 71.) *Cairo, April* 7, 1900.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 63 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the status of Portuguese Consuls-General and Consuls in Egypt has formed the subject of further discussions between the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires.

A counter-proposal to that submitted by the Representative of Portugal has been put forward by Boutros Pasha, to the effect that so far as Consuls-General are concerned, the Egyptian Government will be prepared, on receiving a notification from the Portuguese Government that their Consul-General is "de carrière," to treat him in every respect as such.

The Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires is prepared to recommend this proposal to his Government, and to urge the withdrawal of the reference to Consuls. He asks,

however, that Chargés d'Affaires should be placed in the same position as the Consuls-General whom they represent, and I understand that Boutros Pasha will be prepared to make this concession, although he has not as yet said so to the Portuguese Consul-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

No. 43.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 184.) *Paris, April* 14, 1900.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the text of a Law, promulgated in to-day's "Journal Officiel," withdrawing from the French Consular Courts in Egypt jurisdiction in cases of simple and fradulent bankruptcy, such cases falling within the jurisdiction of the Mixed Tribunals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Extract from the "Journal Officiel" of April 14, 1900.

Loi ayant pour objet d'autoriser le Gouvernement de la République à donner son assentiment aux dispositions prises par le Gouvernement Khédivial pour établir la compétence des Tribunaux Mixtes en matière de banqueroute et de faillite.

LE Sénat et la Chambre des Députés ont adopté,

Le Président de la République promulgue la Loi dont la teneur suit :—

Article Unique.—Les Tribunaux Mixtes en Égypte étant reconnus compétents en matière de banqueroute simple ou frauduleuse, comme en matière de délits connexes, les Tribunaux Consulaires Français cesseront de connaître des faits de banqueroute simple et frauduleuse et des délits connexes à de pareils faits, qui seraient imputables à d'autres que le failli.

La présente Loi, délibérée et adoptée par le Sénat et par la Chambre des Députés, sera exécutée comme Loi de l'État.

Fait à Paris, le 12 Avril, 1900.

(Signé) ÉMILE LOUBET.

Par le Président de la République :
Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) DELCASSÉ.
Le Garde des Sceaux, Ministre de la Justice,
(Signé) MONIS.

No. 44.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 72.) *Cairo, April* 16, 1900.
(Telegraphic.) P.

WITH reference to my desptach No. 22 of the 7th February, there is apparently some hesitation on the part of the Swedish Government to give their consent to the Decree ;-and the Greek Consul-General has asked for some representation to be made at Stockholm.

The difficulty might be disposed of if they would explain what points are objected to.

No. 45.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 73.) *Cairo, April* 18, 1900.
(Telegraphic.) P.

MY telegram No. 72.

The Egyptian Government have just received a communication from the Swedish Agent and Consul-General notifying the adhesion of his Government to the Decree.

No. 46.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 73.) *Cairo, April* 10, 1900.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir R. Rodd's despatch No. 146 of the 4th August, 1899, transmitting, for submission to the approval of Her Majesty's Government, two draft Decrees relating to the pawnbroking establishments, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a note which I have received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs drawing attention to a small error in the drafting of Article 4 of the second of these Decrees.

There can, I think, be no objection to the slight alteration in the draft Decree indicated by Boutros Pasha, and I propose, therefore, with your Lordship's sanction, to reply that Her Majesty's Government agree to its being made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Boutros Pasha to Viscount Cromer.

Caire, le 8 *Avril*, 1900.

Mon cher Milord,

AVANT de soumettre à la signature de Son Altesse le Khédive les deux projets de Décret dont l'un ajoute un paragraphe à l'Article 84 du Code de Commerce Mixte, et dont l'autre réglemente les maisons de prêts sur gages, je me suis aperçu qu'une erreur s'est glissée dans la rédaction de l'Article 4 de ce dernier projet. En effet, au lieu de dire que, ainsi que cela se pratique dans tous les établissements de ce genre, une reconnaissance au porteur doit être remise à l'emprunteur en échange du gage qu'il dépose, cet Article porte qu'en échange des fonds versés les prêteurs reçoivent des reconnaissances au porteur.

Il m'a semblé qu'il était naturel que cette erreur fût rectifiée en modifiant ainsi qu'il suit les deux premiers alinéas de l'Article 4 :—

"En même temps que les fonds seront versés, il sera délivré à l'emprunteur une reconnaissance au porteur contenant les indications suivantes : (1) somme prêtée ; (2) désignation détaillée du gage ; (3) estimation du gage ; (4) date de l'échéance du prêt."

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer de cette rectification, que vous ne pouvez qu'approuver, j'en suis persuadé, mon cher Milord, et j'attends votre consentement pour soumettre les Décrets à la signature de Son Altesse le Khédive. Quant au projet concernant l'addition d'un paragraphe à l'Article 84 du Code de Commerce, il va être incessamment promulgué.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signed) BOUTROS GHALI.

No. 47.

Mr. Leveson-Gower to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 51.) *The Hague, April* 18, 1900.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies and translation of a Decree of the 3rd April, 1900, ordering the insertion in the "Official Gazette" of the approval by the Netherlands of the prolongation for the period of five years of the jurisdiction of the Mixed Egyptian Law Courts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR F. G. LEVESON-GOWER.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Decree of the 3rd April, 1900, ordering the insertion in the "Staatsblad" of the approval by the Netherlands of the prolongation, for the period of five Years, of the jurisdiction of the Mixed Egyptian Law Courts.

(Translation.)

WE, Wilhelmina, by the grace of God, Queen of the Netherlands, Princess of Orange-Nassau, &c.:

Taking into consideration that we have agreed to the prolongation of the jurisdiction of the Mixed Egyptian Law Courts for the period of five years;

Having regard to Article 2 of the Law of 6th December, 1898 ("Staatsblad," No. 254);

Having regard to the Decree of the Khedive of 30th January, 1900, by which the period for the prolongation of the aforesaid jurisdiction, began on 1st February ensuing;

On the proposal of our Minister for Foreign Affairs of 30th March, 1900, Directie van het Protocol, No. 1976:

Have approved and sanctioned the ordering of the announcement of the aforesaid prolongation by inserting this Decree in the "Staatsblad."

Our Ministers, Heads of Departments of General Administration are charged, each one so far as it may concern him, with the carrying out of everything required for this effect.

(Signed) WILHELMINA.

(Countersigned) W. H. DE BEAUFORT,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Published on the 10th April, 1900.

(Signed) CORT. Y. D. LINDON,
Minister of Justice

The Hague, the 3rd April, 1900.

No. 48.

Mr. Adam to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 32.) *Madrid, April* 18, 1900.

My Lord,

I TOOK an opportunity recently to inquire again of Señor Silvela what course the Spanish Government intended to take in regard to the appointment of the ninth European Judge of the Court of Appeal in the Egyptian Mixed Tribunals, referred to in your Lordship's despatch No. 17 of the 13th ultimo.

His Excellency replied that Spain did not propose to raise any objection to the appointment in question, but that as each of the first class Powers had a separate Representative on the Court, while Spain was grouped with several second class

Powers for the appointment of a common Representative, the Spanish Government proposed to abstain from taking part in the proceedings.

I have consequently addressed to Señor Silvela the note, copy of which is inclosed herewith.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. F. FREDERICK ADAM.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Mr. Adam to Señor Silvela.

Madrid, April 18, 1900.

M. le Ministre,

WITH reference to the conversation which I had the honour to have with your Excellency last week on the subject of the draft Decree of the Egyptian Government increasing the number of foreign Judges in the Appeal Court of the Mixed Tribunals in Egypt, I have the honour, in compliance with an instruction from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to express the hope that the Spanish Government will not think it necessary to withhold its assent to the Decree in question on the ground that Spain should be separately represented on the Court of Appeal as well as Greece.

Such a course would, in all probability, only wreck the proposed Decree without effecting its object.

Her Majesty's Government have undertaken to bring these circumstances to your Excellency's favourable notice, as a friendly act to Greece, in the absence of a Greek Diplomatic Representative in Madrid.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. F. FREDERICK ADAM.

No. 49.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Viscount Cromer.

(No. 82.) *Foreign Office, April* 27, 1900.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch No. 73 of the 19th instant respecting the alteration which the Egyptian Government propose to make in Article 4 of one of the draft Decrees on pawnbroking establishments, copies of which were inclosed in Sir R. Rodd's despatch No. 146 of the 4th August, 1899.

Her Majesty's Government agree to this alteration, and I authorize your Lordship to so inform the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 50.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 78.) *Cairo, April* 22, 1900.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 61 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith two copies of *procès-verbal* No. 8, *bis*,* of the International Sub-Commission of Judicial Reform.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CROMER.

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* Not printed.

No. 51.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 79. Confidential.)

Cairo, April 27, 1900.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that rumours are current here that Moukhtar Pasha intends very shortly to resign his position in the Turkish service, and to reside for the future in Europe. His staff has already left for Constantinople.

Similar reports have during the last year or so been frequently current in Cairo. It is, however, not improbable that on this occasion the rumour may turn out to be true. It is known that for a long time past Moukhtar Pasha has been dissatisfied with his position. He is on bad terms with the Sultan, of whose general policy he strongly disapproves. Further, I am informed that 20 months' arrears of pay are due to him.

I need scarcely remind your Lordship that the proper representative of the Sultan in Egypt is the Khedive. Moukhtar Pasha originally came here as Joint Commissioner with Sir Henry Wolff, to arrange a special Convention with Her Majesty's Government. When the negotiations were brought to a close, Moukhtar Pasha was, much to my regret, allowed to remain in the country. I have always treated him with the utmost courtesy, but I have persistently declined to recognize him as the official representative of the Sultan. I have held that his official functions ceased when the Sultan refused to ratify the Convention negotiated by Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

The presence of a high Turkish official in Egypt—even if he be not recognized as Commissioner—is an unmixed evil. He affords a rallying point for intrigue of various descriptions, and adds another and unnecessary complication to the complex political and administrative machinery of Egypt. In the event, therefore, of Moukhtar Pasha's retirement, I venture to express a hope that the Sultan will be discouraged should His Imperial Majesty show any disposition to send some one to Egypt in his place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

No. 52.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 80.)

Cairo, April 27, 1900.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 73 of the 18th instant I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of a Khedival Decree, amending in the manner already explained, the Law administered by the Mixed Courts as regards pawnbroking establishments in Egypt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Decree dated April 13, 1900.

NOUS, Khédive d'Égypte,

Vu le Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire;

Vu le Code de Commerce Mixte et le Décret du 5 Décembre, 1886, qui l'a compété en ce qui concerne le gage commercial;

Après accord intervenu entre notre Gouvernement et les Puissances qui ont adhéré à la Réforme Judiciaire;

Sur la proposition de notre Ministre de la Justice et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres,

Décrétons:

Article 1er. Il est ajouté à l'Article 84 du Code de Commerce Mixte un paragraphe conçu dans les termes suivants:—

"En ce qui concerne les établissements de prêt sur gage autorisés, dont les

reconnaissances sont au porteur, les numéros en retard seront affichés par ministère d'huissier, à la porte du siège ou des succursales des dits établissements, au tableau du Tribunal et à la Bourse de Commerce, avec déclaration que passé le délai de dix jours, la vente en sera poursuivie. La requête au juge de service comprendra collectivement tous les numéros affichés qui n'auront pas satisfait aux conditions contractuelles."

Art. 2. Ces dispositions entreront en vigueur un mois après la publication qui en sera faite dans les formes prévues par l'Article 35, Titre I, du Règlement d'Organisation Judiciaire.

Art. 3. Notre Ministre de la Justice est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait au Palais de Koubbeh, le 13 Avril, 1900.

(Signé) ABBAS HILMI.

Par le Khédive:

Le Président du Conseil des Ministres,
(Signé) MOUSTAPHA FEHMY.

Le Ministre de la Justice,
(Signé) IBRAHIM FOUAD.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) BOUTROS GHALI.

No. 53.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 81. Confidential.)

Cairo, April 27, 1900.

My Lord,

I THINK it is desirable that I should address your Lordship on the subject of missionary enterprise in Egypt and the Soudan. The matter has recently entered into a somewhat new phase.

First, as regards the Soudan:

Your Lordship is aware that it has, after some discussion, been arranged that, in the event of an Egyptian Bishopric being created, episcopal functions should not for the present be exercised south of Assouan.

I cannot help regretting that the military authorities were unable to comply with the suggestion made by Sir Reginald Wingate and myself, to the effect that an army Church of England Chaplain should be stationed at Khartoum whilst the British troops were there. The result has been what I anticipated. On the plea of looking after the spiritual welfare of the soldiers, a member of the Church Missionary Society has obtained a footing at Khartoum, from which locality he will now not be easily displaced.

Some Roman Catholic nuns who wished to proceed to Khartoum were stopped at Assouan. On the other hand, Bishop Roveggio, who was given permission to go to Khartoum in order to inaugurate a Mission to the non-Moslem population in the Upper Nile Valley, still remains there, on the plea that the steamer he is building is not yet ready, and that the Nile is too low to admit of navigation. I shall do my utmost to insure his speedy departure.

On the whole, I may say that, with much difficulty, it has so far been possible to prevent missionary enterprise on any considerable scale from being started in the Soudan.

It is, however, in respect to Egypt proper that I more particularly wish to address your Lordship.

Until recently Protestant missionary enterprise in Egypt has been almost entirely in American hands. The American missionaries have been established here for many years. As regards conversions to Christianity amongst the Moslem population, the results obtained have been practically inappreciable. But they have, nevertheless, done much good. They have opened many excellent schools, which are largely attended by Copts and, although to a less extent, by Moslems. They have been very useful agents for extending a knowledge of the English language. They have acquired some influence in the various provincial towns, principally in Upper Egypt, where they are established, and that influence has been persistently exerted on the side of good government and in the interests of public morality. The leading men of the American Mission have passed

most of their lives in Egypt. They speak Arabic fluently. They are intimately acquainted with the ideas, habits, and customs of the population. Their local knowledge enables them to direct their efforts in such a manner as, for the most part, to avoid giving offence to the Moslems. They have constantly asked for my assistance in small things, and I have generally been able without much difficulty to arrange matters to the satisfaction of all parties. I have never yet known a case in which there has been any serious difference of opinion between the American missionaries and the Egyptians, whether of the official or unofficial classes.

During the last year or two English missionaries have shown far greater activity than heretofore. The behaviour of the English missionaries is, I regret to say, very different to that of the Americans. They are often young inexperienced men, knowing little or nothing of the country, and wholly, or well nigh wholly, ignorant of the language. There can be no doubt of their good intentions. There can be equally little doubt of their want of discretion. I give a few instances in point:

Last year an English missionary began to preach the Christian religion inside a mosque at Tantah, a singularly fanatical town, where, during the Arabi rebellion, many Christians and Jews were murdered. It is much to the credit of the Moslems who were present that no serious disturbance took place.

Again, in the course of last summer, some English missionaries, who on this occasion belonged to the Church Missionary Society, created what almost amounted to a riot by playing some musical instruments in the most crowded portion of the native quarter of Cairo, and then, when a crowd had collected, preaching the Gospel. I saw these gentlemen, and pointed out to them that, as a mere matter of police, their proceedings could not be permitted. They willingly complied with my request to abstain from street preaching, but what struck me most about them was that, whilst insisting on their right to be protected against ill-treatment and violence, they appeared in no way to recognize the highly provocative nature of their own conduct.

Again, during the course of last summer, some disturbance was threatened at Alexandria owing to English missionaries selling tracts in the streets. I saw the gentlemen concerned, and persuaded them to desist from these proceedings; but during the last week or ten days the same body—who are, I believe, termed the "Egypt Mission Bond"—have taken a step which has caused a positive ferment amongst the Moslem population. They have sent a tract, entitled "Which of them, Christ or Mohamed?" to well nigh every Sheikh and Omdeh in the country. A large number of copies has also been sent to the Sheikh-el-Jamaa, who is the Head of the El Azhar University, and to other of the Ulema.

It is idle to suppose that the arguments set forth in this tract can produce the least effect on the native population. At the same time, I willingly recognize that it contains nothing absolutely offensive. It keeps well within the terms of the law, as laid down by Article 261 of the Orders in Council. Not a word is said which, even by a strained construction, can be held to "deride, mock, or insult," the Moslem religion. Indeed, I may go further, and say that an attempt is evidently made by the author of the tract to bring out prominently those points on which the teaching of the Bible and the Koran coincide. This caution is possibly due to the fact that, as I am informed, one of the "Egypt Mission Bond" was a solicitor before he became a missionary.

In spite of the studied moderation of the language, the tract is none the less objectionable in Moslem eyes. In these matters everything depends on the point of view of the critic. I can quite understand that the missionaries think that they have kept well within the limits of fair and tolerant discussion, and, looking at the matter from the European standpoint, I agree with them; but it is futile to suppose that a number of ill-educated and intolerant Ulema would agree in this description of a work which stoutly denies the Divine mission of Mohamed, and, therefore, by implication, stigmatizes the Prophet as an impostor.

The most serious part of this matter is that, in the eyes of the population, it is very difficult to dissociate the action of the British Government from that of individual Englishmen. I was well aware of this point, and the fact has now, unasked by me, been admitted by the missionaries themselves.

I inclose a copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Gould, Her Majesty's Consul at Alexandria, who, at my request, saw the missionaries concerned. I beg to draw your Lordship's special attention to Mr. Gould's statement that "they (the missionaries) said that, as Englishmen, they found it almost impossible to persuade the people in the provinces that they were not Agents of the British Government."

A Circular is now about to be issued to the provincial authorities, pointing out that the Egyptian Government is in no way associated with the distribution of these tracts.

A letter in the same sense will also be sent to the Head of the El Azhar University. As a general rule, letters from the Ministry of the Interior are signed by the Egyptian Minister; but on this occasion, in order to openly dissociate the British element in the Egyptian Administration from the action of the missionaries, I have thought it advisable that the letters should be signed by Mr. Machell, the Adviser to the Ministry of the Interior.

The sudden and indiscreet activity displayed by the English missionaries comes at a somewhat unfortunate moment. The prolonged tension due to recent events in South Africa has reacted on the Egyptian situation in a variety of ways on which I need not now dwell in detail. It will be sufficient for me to say that I never remember a period when the exercise of caution in dealing with Egyptian questions, great and small, was more imperatively requisite. Further, we have narrowly escaped from a serious outbreak of military insubordination; neither am I, as yet, at all free from anxiety in respect to the condition of the army.

Another point in connection with the local situation also deserves attention. A variety of circumstances—notably, the diplomatic failure in respect to the Caisse de la Dette lawsuit, and the Fashoda incident—have greatly weakened the force of French opposition in this country. The Anglophobe natives have lost confidence in the French, and no longer look to them for support. The most prominent French Anglophobe paper has ceased to exist. An impression hostile to the French has been produced amongst Egyptians by the fact that the "Moweyyad," a Pan-Islamic paper with French sympathies, is not permitted to circulate in Algeria or in Tunis. This impression has been enhanced by a speech recently delivered by M. Hanotaux, of which I have not seen a copy, but which, I am told, tends to question the Sultan's authority as the spiritual Head of the Moslem religion. The result of all this is that local opposition to England no longer clusters around French influences. It has assumed a different direction; it has become almost wholly Pan-Islamic, and it is very questionable whether the change is one for the good, for whatever advantage may be gained by the decadence of French political influence is counterbalanced by the consideration that Pan-Islamism appeals to sentiments far more comprehensible and far more sympathetic to the minds of the mass of the population than any which can be evoked by purely diplomatic or political considerations.

The hostile Pan-Islamic press has seized with avidity on the action of the missionaries. The ordinary Egyptian cares mainly for two things, viz., his pocket and his religion. By no possibility can it be shown that his material prosperity has not been immensely increased since the British occupation. The argument that the occupation has in these respects done no good has, indeed, almost ceased to be employed. It is unfortunate that when this consummation has been obtained, and the Egyptian opposition is almost reduced to enforced and reluctant silence, an excellent handle for attack should be furnished by the missionaries.

I fear it is hopeless to attempt to convince these gentlemen that, in spite of their good intentions, they are really the worst enemies of progress based on the principles of the Christian moral code, if not of the Christian religion itself. I have no doubt, however, that such is the case. To any one who knows the Egyptians, and has lived amongst them, the idea that any large body of the population can be converted to the Christian religion appears nothing but an idle dream. There may be a few conversions, but during the twenty-three years of my association with Egypt, I cannot say that I have ever come across any one who could with justice be termed a sincere and, still less, a valuable convert. I remember, some years ago, the American missionaries asked me to interfere in order to prevent two young Moslems, who had been converted to Christianity, from being persecuted. I did what they wished, but, as a matter of curiosity, I expressed a desire to see the converts. Accordingly, two youths, belonging to the most humble class of peasantry, came to see me. Their knowledge both of the Christian religion and of the English language was limited to being able to gabble off the Apostle's Creed without, however, in any degree understanding its signification. They could not understand the simplest question addressed to them in English, and through an interpreter, I satisfied myself that they were wholly ignorant of the most elementary truths of the Christian religion. Their general demeanour left on my mind the impression that, from all conscientious points of view, they were quite indifferent to religious questions, whether under a Christian or a Mahommedan aspect.

Whilst, however, no real progress is made in the direction of conversion, action, such as I have described above, on the part of British missionaries stirs up the latent fires of Mahommedan fanaticism, and renders Mahommedans generally more than ever disposed to look askance at the work of the non-proselytizing reformer. Thus, for years

past, I have been endeavouring, with the occasional and very feeble help of a few Moslem reformers, to effect gradually some changes in such Moslem institutions as the El-Azhar University and the Mehkemeh Sheraich, or Courts which deal with questions relating to personal status. It is uphill work; at the same time, some few very small results are being gradually achieved. Conduct such as that recently adopted by the English missionaries does much to cripple my influence for good. The least suspicion that conversion to Christianity, rather than internal Moslem reform, is the object which it is really sought to attain, greatly increases the difficulties, already sufficiently great, which lie in the path of the reformer.

I think your Lordship should be informed of how matters stand in these respects, but I am unable to recommend any special steps with a view to remedying the state of things which I have described in this despatch. I may mention that, from the political point of view, the favourable aspects consist of the facts: first, that the mass of the population are perfectly contented, and are, therefore, indisposed to listen to agitators; and, secondly, that my personal opinion in favour of non-interference with all matters connected with the Moslem religion is very widely and generally known. These considerations will, I hope and believe, tend to mitigate any harm that might otherwise result from the indiscreet action of the missionaries. I shall not, however, be surprised if, in some form or another, reprisals are attempted by Mahommedans. Indeed, only two days ago, an Englishman, who is a medical missionary at Helouan, wrote to me to complain that his daughter had been assaulted, and that his windows had been broken by stones. This case is now being investigated by the police. I need hardly add that, whilst openly disclaiming any wish to encourage missionary work, I have done all in my power to let it be known that any acts of violence perpetrated against missionaries will be promptly suppressed and severely punished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have received copies (1) of a letter addressed by the Sheikh of the El-Azhar to the Ministry of the Interior; (2) of the answer of the Minister of the Interior; and (3) of the Circular issued by Mr. Machell to the provincial authorities. I have the honour to inclose copies of these documents.

C.

Inclosure 1 in No. 53.

Consul-General Gould to Viscount Cromer.

Alexandria, April 25, 1900.

Dear Lord Cromer,

I HAVE seen the two Headmen of the "Egypt Mission Bond," the Missionary Society responsible for sending the pamphlet, entitled "Christ or Mahomed," to the Sheikhs and Omdehs.

I found them inclined to listen to reason. They admitted that a mistake had been made in sending these pamphlets wholesale to the Sheikhs and Omdehs, and promised that they would not again do anything of the kind.

They said that as Englishmen they found it almost impossible to persuade the people in the provinces that they were not paid agents of the British Government.

They asked for practical suggestions as to how they could best avoid being a source of embarrassment to the Government, and declared that they were most anxious to keep within lines approved by the British authorities.

Individually, the two gentlemen whom I saw seemed to be moderate and reasonable men.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. B. GOULD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 53.

The Sheikh-el-Azhar to the Minister of the Interior.

April 22, 1900.

(Literal translation.)

I BEG to submit to your Excellency the news which has spread far and wide, namely, that certain Christians at Alexandria published several tracts in disparagement of the chosen of God, peace and prayer be on him, and sent them to the Omdehs and Sheikhs in the provinces and in Cairo.

Some of the Omdehs, consumed with Mohamedan zeal, transmitted to us these tracts with letters requesting the Masheikha (office of Sheikh-el-Azhar) to take the means necessary to avoid such things which disturb public tranquillity.

As this matter vexes the mind, turns the heart to enmity, and creates disturbance, the Masheikha could not but submit the case to your Excellency, I beg therefore to forward herewith the tracts and letters mentioned above, hoping and trusting you will take the necessary measures that will surely put a stop to this affair.

May God keep you, may he strengthen the Mahomedan religion by you, and may he grant you help and an abundant reward.

(Sealed) SELIM-EL-BISHRI.
Servant of Knowledge and the Poor at the Azhar Mosque.

Inclosure 3 in No. 53.

The Minister of the Interior to the Sheikh-el-Azhar.

Cairo [undated].

(Translation.)

IN reply to your letter of the 22nd instant *re* the pamphlet circulated by certain Christian missionaries at Alexandria criticising the Mahommedan religion, I beg to state that before the receipt of the above the Ministry had received information to the same effect, and at once instituted an inquiry into the origin of the pamphlet.

Letters have been written to the local authorities explaining the complete ignorance of the Government of this scheme of propagation, and expressing our entire disavowal of the action of the missionaries in question.

The authorities have further been instructed to collect and forward to this Ministry all the copies of this tract that can be found.

(Signed) MUSTAPHA FEHMY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 53.

Circular addressed by Mr. Machell to Provincial Authorities.

(Traduction.)

M. le Gouverneur ou Moudir de ,

LE Ministère a appris qu'une Société de Missionnaires a adressé à un certain nombre d'Omdehs et de Cheikhs et autres une brochure intitulée "Lequel des deux, le Christ ou Mohammed," et il résulte que le public Musulman incline à croire que le Gouvernement aide à la propagation de cette brochure.

Il est inutile de vous dire que cette croyance, si elle existe, est complètement erronée et elle a dû avoir été provoquée par des gens mal intentionnés.

Je vous prie, en conséquence, de bien faire comprendre aux habitants de votre Gouvernorat ou Moudirieh, par les moyens que vous jugerez utiles, que le Gouvernement ignorait complètement le projet de cette propagation et qu'il le désavoue entièrement.

Vous voudrez, en outre, faire ramasser les exemplaires qui se trouvent encore entre les mains du public et les envoyer au Ministère.

(Signé) P. W. MACHELL.

No. 54.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 88. Confidential.) *Cairo, May* 10, 1900.

My Lord,

M. COGORDAN, who has just returned from Paris, called on me yesterday, and informed me that the French Government was prepared to agree to the issue of 1,700,000*l.* of Egyptian Preference Stock. This matter has been for a long time under consideration, but up to the present time, the assent of the French Government being withheld, nothing definite had been decided.

A Circular will now be addressed to the Powers. As the French Government is prepared to agree, it is not probable that any serious objections will be raised from other quarters.

The money is much required. It has for a long time been generally recognized that a considerable capital expenditure is necessary in order to improve the Egyptian railway system. I have frequently drawn attention to this subject in my Annual Reports.

I shall have to address your Lordship again when I receive the Circular from the Egyptian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. My present object is merely to draw your Lordship's attention to a circumstance which would appear to indicate a tendency on the part of the French Government to treat Egyptian questions in a somewhat less unyielding spirit than heretofore.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

No. 55.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 96.) *Cairo, May* 22, 1900.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a Circular and draft Decree which I have received from the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs. Your Lordship will observe that the Egyptian Government propose to issue Preference Stock to the extent of £ E. 1,700,000. I have, in successive Annual Reports, dwelt fully on the necessity of improving the Egyptian railways. I need, therefore, now only say that I have no hesitation in recommending that the assent of Her Majesty's Government should be given to this proposal. It has received the support of the Commissioners of the Debt, and the assent of the French Government has been promised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 55.

Boutros Pasha to Viscount Cromer.

(Circulaire.) *Caire, le* 22 *Mai*, 1900.

Milord,

A PLUSIEURS reprises l'Administration des Chemins de Fer a appelé l'attention du Gouvernement sur l'état actuel du réseau ferré ainsi que sur l'insuffisance du matériel dont elle dispose. Il est de toute évidence que, pour être à même de satisfaire aux exigences légitimes du commerce et de l'industrie, dont l'importance augmente de jour en jour, cette Administration a absolument besoin de pouvoir améliorer l'état des lignes en exploitation et renouveler ou augmenter dans de fortes proportions son matériel de traction.

Pour arriver à ce résultat, elle a soumis à l'appréciation du Gouvernement un programme exposant toutes les améliorations à introduire dans son exploitation, programme qui, pour être exécuté, comporte une dépense qu'elle évalue à £ E. 1,700,000.

Convaincu de la nécessité impérieuse de ces réformes et soucieux de venir en aide à une Administration si éminemment utile au pays, le Gouvernement se propose de

réaliser cette somme en utilisant le solde disponible de l'emprunt de £ E. 5,000,000 que, par Firman de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan visé au Décret du 30 Avril, 1888, il a été autorisé à émettre; il considère comme le moyen le plus pratique pour faire cette émission, de créer des titres de la Dette Privilégiée en quantité suffisante pour obtenir une somme nette de £ E. 1,700,000, dont les intérêts seraient ajoutés à la somme prévue au Budget pour le service de la Dette Privilégiée et, partant, constitueraient une charge des fonds affectés.

Au point de vue des créanciers, cette mesure est justifiée par le fait que l'exécution du programme établi par l'Administration des Chemins de Fer ne manquera pas de se traduire par une augmentation sensible de ses recettes qui sont affectées en premier lieu au service de la Dette Privilégiée, et que la valeur du gage se trouvera augmentée dans des proportions bien plus considérables que l'augmentation effective de la dette.

Je puis ajouter que le solde disponible des revenus affectés pour 1898 n'était pas moins de £ E. 1,573,000; il est, donc, amplement suffisant pour couvrir la charge additionnelle résultant de l'émission proposée, qui ne dépasserait pas £ E. 60,000.

Dans cet ordre d'idées, le Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Khédive a fait préparer un projet de Décret, dont j'ai l'honneur de vous adresser, ci-joint, trois exemplaires, en vous priant de vouloir bien le soumettre à l'approbation de votre Gouvernement.

L'adoption de la combinaison ainsi proposée devant avoir pour résultat de développer les ressources du pays, et d'augmenter encore la valeur du gage donné à ses créanciers, je suis certain que vous voudrez bien me prêter votre obligeant concours auprès du Cabinet de Londres pour obtenir sa prompte adhésion.

J'ajoute que la Caisse de la Dette, consultée, a donné un avis favorable à l'émission projetée.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) BOUTROS GHALI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 55.

Draft Decree.

NOUS, Khédive d'Égypte,

Vu la Loi de Liquidation du 17 Juillet, 1880;

Vu les Décrets des 27 Juillet, 1885, 30 Avril, 1888, et 6 Juin, 1890;

Vu le Firman de 1888, de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, contenant l'autorisation d'émettre un emprunt de £ E. 5,000,000;

Vu l'avis conforme des Commissaires-Directeurs de la Caisse de la Dette Publique;

Considérant que l'Allemagne, l'Autriche-Hongrie, la France, la Grande-Bretagne, l'Italie, et la Russie, ont déclaré qu'elles acceptaient le présent Décret, et qu'elles se sont engagées à la porter collectivement à la connaissance des autres Puissances qui ont pris part à l'établissement des Tribunaux Mixtes en Égypte et à les inviter à y adhérer;

Sur la proposition de notre Ministre des Finances, et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres;

Avons Décrété et Décrétons:

Article 1er. Notre Ministre des Finances est autorisé à émettre les titres de la Dette Privilégiée 3½ pour Cent, jusqu'à concurrence de la somme nécessaire pour produire, en vue de l'emploi déterminé à l'Article 3 ci-après, une somme effective de £ E. 1,700,000, plus les frais qui incomberont à notre Gouvernement à la suite de cette opération.

Art. 2. Les titres de la Dette Privilégiée ainsi émis seront assimilés aux titres de la Dette Privilégiée, actuellement en cours. En conséquence, l'annuité présentement affectée au service de la Dette Privilégiée sera augmentée d'une somme égale à l'intérêt à 3½ pour cent des titres émis en vertu de l'Article 1er du présent Décret.

Art. 3. La somme de £ E. 1,700,000, produite par l'émission dont il est parlé à l'Article 1er du présent Décret, sera versée à la Caisse de la Dette Publique et affectée

à l'extension et à l'amélioration des voies ferrées exploitées par l'Administration des Chemins de Fer de l'État, ainsi qu'à l'augmentation de son matériel roulant.

Art. 4. Les Commissaires-Directeurs de la Caisse de la Dette Publique nous adresseront, après l'emploi total de la somme de £ E. 1,700,000, un Rapport établissant cet emploi d'après les justifications qui leur seront produites.

Ce Rapport sera publié au "Journal Officiel."

Art. 5. Notre Ministre des Finances est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

No. 56.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 97. Confidential.)

Cairo, May 26, 1900.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an interesting note, prepared at my request by Mr. Boyle, on the state of Moslem feeling in Egypt.

The main point brought out by Mr. Boyle is that—for the time being at all events—what is generally known as the Patriotic party has, in a great measure, lost its hold on native public opinion. This party, which is largely composed of young Gallicised Egyptians, has made itself conspicuous by its extreme Anglophobia.

It is natural that, with the decline of French influence in Egypt, the position of this party, which acts, more or less, in sympathy with the extreme French Anglophobes, should also decline.

Its place has, as Mr. Boyle points out, been taken by the foundation of a Pan-Islamic party, which, although less distinctly Anglophobe, is, in all probability, more adverse generally to the intervention of European civilization into the country.

I do not doubt that, as compared to the Gallicised Egyptians, those who represent Pan-Islamic ideas have a far greater hold on Egyptian public opinion. That they will develop any practical programme which will enable Egypt to be morally and politically regenerated on Islamic lines is, to say the least, in the highest degree improbable.

Neither do I believe that, if proper care be exercised, they will constitute really formidable opponents to the general policy inaugurated in Egypt since the occupation began. But I must lay special stress on the necessity of exercising caution; for, if a favourable opportunity were afforded to the action of the Pan-Islamic party, they might certainly acquire an importance which they do not now possess. I allude to this point more especially because the behaviour of the missionaries, about which I have recently addressed your Lordship, might easily afford an excellent opportunity for enabling the Pan-Islamic Society to pose as the true representatives of Egyptian semi-religious semi-patriotic sentiments. I venture to draw your Lordship's attention to Mr. Boyle's remarks on this subject.

I am kept fully informed of the proceedings of the Society.

Your Lordship will observe that recently there was some question of sending emissaries to India. Should this be done, I shall not fail to report the matter to your Lordship with a view to the Government of India being informed.

The best way to treat emissaries of this nature would, in my opinion, be to afford them every facility for becoming acquainted with the tolerant and liberal spirit in which India is governed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Memorandum by Mr. Boyle on Moslem Feeling in Egypt.

IN his despatches Nos. 163 and 176, Secret, of the 25th August and 16th September, 1899, Sir Rennell Rodd submitted to Lord Salisbury some observations on the state of the Egyptian "Patriotic party" and the two Pan-Islamic Societies which had recently been founded in Cairo. The phase at which both the Patriotic party and the Societies have now arrived is not unworthy of further notice.

In the first instance, it may safely be said that the Patriotic party in its original form is practically moribund. As is well known, it owes its origin to a small knot of

irresponsible young men, mostly educated to some extent in Paris, who endeavoured to profit by the discontented attitude shown by the young Khedive Abbas immediately on his accession to acquire for themselves some degree of notoriety, which, they hoped, might perhaps eventually lead to some more material advantage to themselves, while costing them no risk in the meantime. The primary dogma of this party was intense hostility to England and to everything English, both in and out of Egypt. All efforts at reform were to be misrepresented and abused. No limit was placed on the untruths which might be told to blacken the English Government and English administrators in the eyes of the people, and France was on every occasion held up as the only friend and possible saviour of Egypt.

For some years the party constituted on these lines succeeded fairly well. The Khedive afforded them considerable moral encouragement, and occasionally material assistance. His *entourage* were openly on the side of the Patriots, supporting them both with money and influence. Moustapha Kamel, the head of the declared members of the party, made pilgrimages to several European capitals, where he interviewed the editors of Anglophobe journals, and enlisted their sympathies in his cause. M. Deloncle and other Frenchmen of his type visited Egypt, and at meetings and banquets promised the support of France to the aspirations of the Egyptian Patriots. Numerous newspapers were founded in these interests, and the population were given to understand that their subscribing to these journals was the price of the Khedive's good-will.

The result of these proceedings was that the country fell, in this respect, into a condition of unrest. The people at large, in reality only desiring to be left alone to look after their own interests, were divided forcibly into two categories: the Anglophiles and the Anglophobes. Circumstances did not allow of any save moral support being afforded to the former, except in the rare cases where actual injustice could be shown to have been committed, while they were exposed to many forms of intangible persecution from their opponents. A man suspected of English sympathies was gibbeted in the vernacular press—a thing to which the Egyptian of the middle class is painfully sensitive. The native officials of his district neglected his petitions and complaints. Worst of all, when he paid his respects to the Khedive at a public reception, he was treated with marked coldness and discourtesy, in striking contrast to the warm reception accorded to his Anglophobe fellows. So far did this feeling extend, that at one time the fellaheen of all classes were afraid to subscribe openly to any but the Anglophobe press, the majority returning to the offices all papers of the other shade of opinion, or only venturing to receive them when sent under cover to the Greek grocer or some other European inhabitant of their villages.

Nevertheless, in spite of this encouraging outlook, the Patriotic party has been for some time steadily waning in authority, and, as already stated, may now be almost considered as defunct. The reasons for this decline are not difficult to trace.

In the first place, by its very composition, the party contained in itself the seeds of its own dissolution. With the exception of one or two men of standing, such as the Khedive's Grand Master of Ceremonies, who has been and is a devoted adherent of the cause, the members were men with no advantages by which to conciliate the favour of an Oriental public, except such as their own writings and declamations attributed to themselves. Of the leaders, one only has any reputation as a sincere Moslem, most of the others being tainted in the eyes of their fellow-countrymen by having studied in Europe, whence they have brought back manners and habits of thought and speech which are intensely distasteful to the more respectable stay-at-home Egyptian. The moral character of Moustapha Kamel is notoriously bad, even in the opinion of Egyptians. Mohamed Bey Ferid, another leading member, was disowned by his father for abominable private conduct. Several others are men who have been dismissed the Government service for grave irregularities. Practically, none are men of family, property, or real learning, all most important factors of popularity in this country.

Again, the Egyptian judges of the merit of a cause by its success. The Patriotic party, in their ill-judged and misdirected efforts to retard the course of reform, have undergone repeated blows, each one of which has lowered their prestige among the people. They have never been able to record a success, and although the freedom allowed to the press permits them to put their own construction on each episode, the fact of their continual and humiliating reverses is perfectly well known and appreciated at its full value.

The Khedive, himself doubtless influenced to some extent by this last consideration, has also broken away in an unexpected degree from the web of intrigue in which the Patriots had succeeded in enveloping him. He no longer openly countenances their proceedings, nor shows his displeasure to Anglophile Sheikhs, and if he affords them any pecuniary support, it is given grudgingly and in small sums, from fear of the possible conse-

quences to himself in the way of "chantage," which might ensue from absolute refusal.

There is, however, a further reason, more forcible than any of the above. The Patriotic party have never succeeded in enlisting on their side the religious feeling of the country. The two powerful motors of the Egyptian mind are religion and self-interest; of these two, the latter was strongly in favour of the English reformer, the beneficent results of whose work in the direction of material prosperity were apparent to all. It remained, therefore, to the Patriots to profit by the skilful use of the former—and, in many cases, more powerful—arm. In this they have utterly failed. They knew that it ought to be done, they made many attempts both in speaking and in writing, but they were not to the manner bred, and they have invariably failed to strike the right note to catch the popular ear. The name and prestige of the Sultan have been freely used in this connection, but also without effect. Moustapha Kamel has paid several visits to Constantinople, and has received marks of Imperial favour and promises of support; several of his friends and colleagues have been decorated; but as regards all the larger issues at stake, the invocation of the Sultan's name has also been a failure.

Such is the present position of the Patriotic party. They still produce one or two newspapers of limited circulation and violent tone, but they are discredited. They enjoy no confidence among the people, whom they no longer terrify; their supplies are running low, as many well-to-do sympathizers, chilled by continual defeat, have withdrawn their support; they quarrel furiously among themselves; their former French friends have abandoned them entirely; and their particular cause is generally regarded as lost.

There is now, however, a more interesting and worthy successor to this ill-named party.

Of the two Societies of which Sir Rennell Rodd speaks in his despatches quoted above, one, the "Shems-el-Islam," has practically ceased to exist in consequence of violent internal dissensions which broke out among its principal members.

The other—the "Mekarim-el-Akhlak" ("Graces of Morals")—is daily increasing in extent and importance. Presided over by a Sheikh and Alim of the highest reputation for character and learning, who is also Iman of one of the holiest mosques in Cairo, this Society numbers already several thousand members, and is energetically establishing branches in all the important provincial towns of Egypt. The members are of all classes, but consist largely of the "turbaned" category, *i.e.*, Sheikhs, Ulema, teachers in the religious schools, readers of the Koran, students of the mosques, &c. There are also a large number of men of high standing and position by reason either of wealth, family, or social position, who devote themselves to furthering the objects of the Society as earnestly as their religious colleagues.

There is little, if any, resemblance between the proceedings of this Society and those of the Patriotic party. In the writings and discussions of the former, catchpenny political jargon, abuse of England, glorification of France, and the similar topics on which the Patriots were eloquent, have no place. England and France (save in one respect, to which allusion will shortly be made) are confounded in the common anathema launched at all Christian countries alike. The Faith, the Unity of God, the Mission of the Prophet, the preservation intact of all the rites and laws of Islam, the means whereby the present moral and political decadence of Moslem countries may best be checked, form the sole subjects of thought, discussion, and, as the more enthusiastic members hope and believe—future action.

The President and principal speaker at the meetings of the Society in Cairo, which are attended sometimes by between 2,000 and 3,000 persons, has a considerable gift of eloquence. He speaks at great length, but any of the audience may put a question bearing on the subject during the discourse. Perfect decency and order of debate is observed throughout, no violence of abuse or other intemperate expressions being allowed to pass unrebuked.

There is, of course, a great deal of repetition in the speeches delivered, the subject being in substance, invariably the same. The decline of Islam is said to be due to the influence of Europe, not to the presence of Europeans in Moslem lands, which is admitted to have been often productive of great benefits, but to the pernicious effect exerted on the minds of the younger generation by association and example.

Morals are corrupt; alcohol is openly drunk; lawful or unlawful associations with Christian women are of every-day occurrence; the services of prayer are neglected; Moslems speak without shame among themselves the languages of unbelievers, as if in contempt of their own sacred tongue; the whole *morale* of Islam is corrupt, and without that *morale* the political body of Islam cannot endure. It is, therefore, the duty of every true Mahommedan to resist to the utmost of his power this gradual decay; he must

discard Christian associations of every kind; not allow himself to deviate by a hair's breadth from the law, as prescribed by the founders of the faith; and Moslems must cling togther in a compact defensive body, to the absolute exclusion of the Christian, no matter to what race he belongs.

Sentiments of this kind, well and vigorously expressed, are assured of finding sympathy for the moment, if not real compliance, in a Moslem audience. No appeal is made to what is properly known as fanaticism, but the natural result of language such as this must necessarily be a certain degree of religious excitement which, in the Mahommedan mind, connotes acute, if not militant, hatred of Christians and all that belongs to them.

No actual outbreak of popular feeling is to be anticipated as a consequence of these addresses, for, as is well known, the Egyptian people as a mass are timid and slow to move, even under considerable provocation and suffering, whereas the unexampled prosperity of the country at present under the existing régime, leaves little room for fearing the occurrence of a general grievance in matters of material interest, when the popular discontent might, as on many occasions in Moslem countries, take the form of a serious outburst of fanatical zeal. What has so far been said and done, however, has been sufficient to inspire considerable uneasiness in the minds of the Oriental Christians, and even of some Europeans, who give exhibition to their fears in a manner which affords no small satisfaction and encouragement to the Moslem.

The treatment of England and Englishmen by the Society is, again, very different to that meted out to them by the Patriots. By all the more influential men it is freely admitted that the work of England in this country is an honest work, that the object pursued is the well-being of the people, and that liberty and justice are in every way encouraged. Nevertheless, as a Christian country and as Christian men, England and Englishmen are to be regarded with dislike and abhorrence by the true Moslem. England at this moment stands in a most favourable light as compared to France, which, after a popularity of many years duration, has fallen to the lowest ebb of Egyptian favour. The many unaccomplished menaces and unfulfilled promises of past years have inspired a deep distrust both in the power and the good faith of France as regards Egypt, and the recent prohibition of the Patriot newspaper "El-Moweyyad" from entering the French possessions in North Africa, coupled with some most distasteful allusions to Islam in a speech lately delivered by M. Hanotaux, have completely thrust France into the background and served to enhance the merits of the liberal but unostentatious policy of England. It may be mentioned, as an example of the appreciation of this latter, that when, at a recent meeting of the Society, it was proposed that delegations should be sent to India in the cause of Pan-Islamic propaganda, objection was raised on the score of the difficulty of smuggling the delegations secretly into India. The objection was at once met by the reply that, under English rule, thought and speech were everywhere free, and that no obstacles would be placed in the way of religious reformers by the Agents of the Queen's Government.

There can be little doubt that the intensity of Mahommedan sentiment in the circles above described has been considerably increased of late years by the proceedings of the missionaries to which Lord Cromer has referred in recent despatches. Frequent and bitter allusion is made at the meetings of the Society to the pamphlets, the street preachings, and similar demonstrations of religious zeal, which are characterized as open insults to the faith delivered unpunished in a Moslem land, to the eternal shame and suffering of those responsible for such impunity. So keenly is this matter felt, indeed, that it is confidently stated by intelligent Mahommedans here that some exhibition of religious excitement might well have occurred before now had it not been for the opinion universally entertained by all classes, to the effect that Her Majesty's Representative in the country has no lot nor part in proceedings of this nature, and, in fact, does his utmost to keep them within due limits.

At a somewhat stormy meeting, only a few days ago, a leading Sheikh demanded, amid applause, that Lord Cromer should be officially invited to attend an assembly of Ulema, accompanied by such clerics of his Church as he might select, to discuss the relative truths of Islam and Christianity. The answer, also made by a prominent authority, to the effect that such a contest would be unnecessary, as it was well known that Lord Cromer's attention was engaged solely with questions affecting the administration of the country, in which connection he regarded Moslem and Christian alike, was held to be valid and conclusive.

The further progress and development of the Society of "Mekarim-el-Akhlak" merits careful watching. It is the first time for many years that a real attempt has been made in Egypt to work on the religious feeling of the country to any considerable extent, and

some good, as well as much possible danger, may result from it if it continues in its present course. It is much to be regretted that, up to now, while commenting severely on the minor sins of Moslems, the more serious blots, such as the corruption which is so largely prevalent, the gross mal-administration of the religious endowments and the Cadis' Courts, both of which are in native hands, are left unreproved. From the temperate, and even sometimes appreciative, manner in which English efforts are occasionally treated by the speakers, there may, perhaps, be some slight grounds for hope that—when the present ebullition has to some extent abated—one or two real Moslem reformers may be found who will co-operate in the work of introducing order into the present chaos of those departments. Hitherto, one of the main obstacles to progress in that direction has been the mutual timidity and mistrust of one Egyptian for another. This new habit of open and well-ordered discussion may possibly do something to correct this fault.

(Signed) H. BOYLE.

Cairo, May 25, 1900.

No. 57.

Sir J. Kennaway, M.P., to Foreign Office.—(Received June 5.)

House of Commons, June 5, 1900.

Dear Brodrick,

I AM obliged by the opportunity you have given me of clearing up some misconceptions which seem to have arisen in regard to the line taken by the Church Missionary Society and its agents in Egypt and the Soudan. May I state our present position?

1. *Khartoum.*—For may years the Church Missionary Society has publicly expressed its intention to establish a Mission in the Soudan, and in 1885 resolved to undertake a Gordon Memorial Mission with Khartoum, if possible, as the head-quarters. We applied to the authorities, after the defeat of the Khalifa, to open a station at Khartoum, but this permission was refused except as a base for Fashoda.

In November 1899, the following letter was received:—

"*Head-quarters, Egyptian Army War Office, Cairo, November 29, 1899.*

"Gentlemen,

"With reference to this Office letter of the 15th instant, I have the honour, by desire of the Sirdar, to inform you that the restrictions withholding persons proceeding to the Soudan are withdrawn, and there is now no objection to your proceeding to Khartoum. I would also inform you that at present there is no hotel accommodation at Khartoum.

"I have, &c.

"(Signed) W. G. SPARKES, *Lieutenant-Colonel, for Adjutant-General, Egyptian Army.*

"Messrs. Harpur and Gwynne,
Cairo."

In accordance with this, Dr. Harpur, a medical missionary of fifteen years' Eastern experience and full knowledge of Arabic, accompanied by the Rev. L. H. Gwynne, who had been fourteen years in Holy Orders, went up to Khartoum, being authorized by the Committee to stay there, although forbidden to do active public missionary work. They have since been joined by the Rev. W. E. Taylor, who has been a missionary in Africa since 1880, with instructions from the Committee to inquire as to the best opportunities for opening a station among the pagan tribes south of Khartoum.

On the 18th December, 1899, these gentlemen had an interview with the Sirdar, who gave them permission to hold a Church of England service for British officers and non-commissioned officers, but referred them to Colonel Maxwell for final arrangements. The Church Missionary Society disclaim any idea of using this service as a pretext for being at Khartoum, or of ever having done so. Indeed it is not the kind of work for which their men are sent out, and is only undertaken as a voluntary addition to their duties.

In response to a formal application made to Lord Kitchener, the new Sirdar has offered the Church Missionary Society a site at Khartoum on lease, and negotiations are proceeding in the matter. The Church Missionary Society have no information that

any objection has as yet been taken to action of their agents in Khartoum or Omdurman.

2. *Street preaching in Cairo.*—Only one case mentioned seems to refer to the Church Missionary Society. For three days in April 1899, meetings were held in the open air which unfortunately led to some disturbance. They were conducted by a missionary of considerable African experience, who had attempted the same thing with no bad results in Mombasa. Lord Cromer's remonstrance was at once respected, and he concurred with the request of the missionaries for protection within their own premises. The Committee have no knowledge of any other form of protection being offered or asked for. Street preaching in the present condition of things is not likely to be attempted again.

The Church Missionary Society has no connection with, nor can it in any degree be held responsible for the proceedings of the Egypt Mission Band.

I will not now enter into the question of direct results of missionary work, often said to be nil, but I think it can be shown that even among Mahommedans conversions are not so few or insignificant as alleged. Indirectly the efforts of the missionaries are admitted by Lord Cromer to have done much good, and their influence to have been exerted persistently on the side of good government, and in the interests of public morality. They have also been useful agents for extending the knowledge of the English language.

Results or no results, the duty imposed upon his followers by Christ remains the same, to preach the Gospel to every creature.

The anxiety on the part of the Egyptian authorities is the counterpart of the policy of the East India Company, who succeeded until 1813 in keeping missionaries out of their dominions. When the time came for the revision of their Charter in 1813 public opinion would no longer tolerate the restrictions, which were accordingly removed, and the dangerous results apprehended from preaching the Gospel, even in fanatical cities like Lucknow and Peshawur, have not occurred.

It may be claimed that the "safety of a Christian policy in India," for which Sir H. Edwards contended, has been shown to be correct. "Christian things done in a Christian way will never alienate the heathen," was the grand principle laid down by Sir J. Lawrence when Chief Commissioner of Oudh.

The Society, while maintaining these principles and determined to act up to its obligations, is quite alive to the necessity of acting with the greatest prudence and caution, and will be grateful for any indication in the future that these have not been fully exercised.

Their missionaries are under strict instructions to avoid anything like an attitude of opposition to the Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN H. KENNAWAY, *President, Church Missionary Society.*

No. 58.

Foreign Office to Treasury.

Foreign Office, June 12, 1900.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Egypt,* inclosing a draft Decree by the Egyptian Government for the issue of Preference stock to the extent of £. E. 1,700,000, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to the improvement and extension of the Egyptian railways, and additions to the rolling stock.

Lord Salisbury proposes, with the concurrence of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, to signify the assent of Her Majesty's Government to the proposal in question.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

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* No. 55.

No. 59.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 81.) *Cairo, June 17, 1900.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that a few days ago two officers belonging to the British garrison at Alexandria, whilst proceeding in plain clothes to the rifle range at Aboukir by boat, landed near the Khedive's Palace at Montaza, in total ignorance that they were committing a trespass. The Khedive's Turkish watchmen at once attacked and brutally maltreated them.

I have arranged for a small Commission to assemble to-morrow for the purpose of inquiring into the facts of the case. This Commission will consist of the Procureur-Général (Corbet Bey), one English officer, and one officer belonging to the Khedive's bodyguard.

Mustapha Pasha Fehmy telegraphed, at my request, to the Khedive, inviting His Highness to co-operate in the settlement of this unfortunate affair, and suggested that the appointment to the Commission of the officer of his bodyguard should receive his sanction. His Highness has replied, stating that the telegram was partially undecypherable, and that he cannot, therefore, at present comply with the Prime Minister's suggestion.

No. 60.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 82.) *Cairo, June 17, 1900.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

A TELEGRAM has been received from the Khedive, sanctioning the appointment of an officer of his household on the Commission, reported to your Lordship in my preceding telegram. His Highness has substituted another officer for the one proposed by us; but to this I have raised no objection.

No. 61.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 83.) *Cairo, June 18, 1900.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

MAY I signify the assent of Her Majesty's Government to the draft Decree inclosed in my despatch to your Lordship No. 96 of the 22nd ultimo?

The Russian and Austrian Governments have already agreed, and the Egyptian Government expect to receive very shortly the assent of the other Powers.

No. 62.

Treasury to Foreign Office.—(Received June 19.)

Treasury Chambers, June 19, 1900.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 12th instant respecting the proposed issue by the Egyptian Government of preference stock to the amount of £ E. 1,700,000, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to signify their concurrence in the proposal of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to convey the assent of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. W. HAMILTON.

No. 63.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Viscount Cromer.

(No. 34.) *Foreign Office, June 19, 1900.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

YOU are authorized to signify the assent of Her Majesty's Government to the issue of Preference Stock for the improvement of the Egyptian Railways, as recommended in your despatch No. 96 of the 22nd May and in your telegram No. 83 of the 18th June.

No. 64.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 48. Confidential.) *Constantinople, June 20, 1900.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

FROM private sources I learn that the Khedive's visit to England is causing the Sultan much perturbation. Costaki Pasha has inquired what attitude he should maintain towards the Khedive, and has been instructed by His Imperial Majesty to go to meet His Highness at the station, to attend all fêtes given in his honour, and to act as intermediary in presenting His Highness to the authorities.

No. 65.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 85.) *Cairo, June 23, 1900.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

IT has been decided to institute proceedings before the ordinary Tribunals for the prosecution of the two principal offenders concerned in the assault on British officers at Montazah, reported to your Lordship in my telegram No. 81 of the 17th instant.

No. 66.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 114.) *Cairo, June 25, 1900.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegrams to your Lordship respecting the assault recently committed by the Khedive's watchmen at Montazah on two British officers belonging to the garrison at Alexandria, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the Report and recommendations drawn up by the Special Commission appointed to inquire into the circumstances of the affair.

As your Lordship is aware, it has been decided to prosecute those of the offenders who have been identified before the Native Courts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Report and Recommendations presented by the Commission appointed to inquire and Report upon the alleged Assault on Captains Bulkeley and Hussey Walsh, at Montazah, on June 10, 1900.

1. "CONSTATATION des lieux":—

It appears from the "constatation des lieux" made by the Commission on the 18th June (No. VI) that the place agreed upon by all the witnesses, as the place where the boat came to land, is about 260 yards on the inside of the western boundary of Montazah.

It is a barren shore with a steep slope rising in front, and none of the Palace buildings are visible from it.

There is nothing to show a stranger that he is trespassing, for the boundary, consisting of a wooden fence and a piece of iron railing where the sea touches, might just as well indicate private property on the west as on the east.

Neither officer had been to Aboukir by sea before.

There are no notice-boards to warn people off.

2. Evidence of the two officers:—

From the testimony of the officers it appears that, on the boat's putting to shore, and the boatman and themselves landing (in plain clothes), a man, identified as Hussein Muhammed the ghafir, approached them brandishing a revolver and a stick; he was dressed only partly in his proper uniform; and Captain Bulkeley at first took him for a coast guard; later both officers took him for a madman.

After he was spoken to by the boatman, he rushed at Captain Bulkeley and pushed him in the chest with his stick.

On this the officers closed with him, and tried to get his revolver from him; they rolled on the ground together, and Hussein Muhammed called out loudly, and some six natives armed with pieces of plank rushed up, and kept beating the officers with them.

Captain Bulkeley, who rose to defend himself, was struck down from behind by a blow on the head, which nearly stunned him.

On coming to himself, he recommended Captain Hussey Walsh to give up his hold of the revolver, which he did.

The men then drove up the road, abusing them; they recognized the words "Imshee, you b——s."

(These words are not attributed to any known person.)

On the way the officers first became aware of the man Ahmed Abdullah, a second ghafir, who also beat them as they went up the road, as did also Hussein Muhammed, although they were going quietly, without making any opposition.

Finally, the officers were brought to the telephone office.

After some time an Egyptian naval officer arrived, who treated them with all courtesy.

At this time the two ghafirs only, of those who committed the crime, were present.

These two men, Hussein Muhammed and Ahmed Abdullah, were absolutely identified by both officers.

3. Evidence of the boatman:—

To the evidence of the boatman we do not attach value, except where it is in agreement with that of the officers, or supported by other circumstances.

He describes the action of Hussein Muhammed in the same way as the officers, but was chiefly bent on exculpating himself, and he ran away to sea as soon as the struggle began.

He says that he referred to the officers in speaking to Hussein Muhammed as officers, but we do not think that any great reliance is to be placed on his statement.

4. The defence of Hussein Muhammed:

His defence consists in affirming that he signed to the officers to keep off, that one of them said "no" (which word he (H. Muhammed) says he does not understand), and seized hold of his revolver, which he says was slung by his side in a holster, and threw him on the ground.

He denies committing the assault on Captain Bulkeley, and says he had no stick, and very violently denies that any one but the officers landed, or that the boatman spoke to him.

He denies having called for help, or that any one came to help him, and pretends that the wound on Captain Bulkeley's head must have happened by his striking his head on the ground, or on a stone (the place is pure sand).

He says that they met Ahmed Abdullah on the way after the struggle, and that he (H. Muhammed) sent him about his business.

His declarations are, generally speaking, obviously false.

5. Defence of Ahmed Abdullah:

His defence is in accordance with the declarations made about him by Hussein Muhammed.

It seems clear that this man was not at the struggle on the shore.

6. General orders for the Montazah ghafirs:

From the copy (No. VII) of the orders hung up in the hut belonging to Hussein Muhammed post at the Pigeon House, it appears that the duties of this post are "to observe the approach of any person or boat to the shore, and to arrest any such person or boat, and to report to the Chief (Hakimdar) of the ghafirs."

7. Medical evidence and evidence of Captain Bulkeley's clothes:

The severity of the wounds is attested by the report written on the day following the event by Dr. Laing (No. V), by this gentleman's evidence before the Commission, and by the state of Captain Bulkeley's clothes, part of which are clotted with a great quantity of blood.

8. Identification of other assailants:

Unfortunately it has been impossible to identify any of the assailants beyond the two ghafirs, Hussein Muhammed and Ahmed Abdullah.

9. Conclusions:

The Commission having weighed the whole of the evidence, have come to the following conclusions:—

(*a.*) The officers were trespassing, but they were unaware of the fact, and reasonably so.

(*b.*) The ghafir, Hussein Muhammed, was in the execution of his duty, but exceeded his written orders, and struck a blow, which was the commencement of the whole trouble.

(*c.*) The conduct of the officers in attempting, under these circumstances, to deprive him of his revolver was, if possibly from some points of view unwise, not unjustifiable.

(*d.*) The ghafir cannot be blamed for resisting the attempt to disarm him, nor for calling help.

(*e.*) The proceedings of the new-comers (unfortunately not identified) constituted an unjustifiable and culpable attack.

(*f.*) When the officers had ceased resistance they were repeatedly struck and insulted on the road to the telephone office.

In these proceedings the ghafir, Ahmed Abdullah, took part with Hussein Muhammed, and the latter also insulted Captain Hussey Walsh at the telephone office before the arrival of the Egyptian naval officer, who treated them with great courtesy.

10. Recommendations by the Commission:

1. Considering that the ghafir, Hussein Muhammed, struck the first blow, and that he and Ahmed Abdullah afterwards used most unnecessary violence, accompanied by insults, to two persons, whom they knew to be Europeans (though we do not hold it proved that they knew them to be "officers"), the Commission feels that it cannot do otherwise than recommend a penal prosecution of these two men before the native Tribunals.

2. It is within the cognizance of the Commission that at least one similar incident has happened before at Montazah, and while regretting that a trespass should have occurred on His Highness the Khedive's estate, the Commission venture to suggest the desirability of large and conspicuous notices being erected along the shore at Montazah to warn strangers off the land.

While making this suggestion, the Commission wishes to record its opinion, that no simple trespass can ever justify any such violence as was used on this occasion.

(Signed) EUSTACE K. CORBET, *President.*
G. EGERTON, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Member.*

June 28, 1900.

Note.—The native member, H. E. Khairy Pasha, has signed the Arabic copy of this Report, with the exception of No. 2 recommendation, which he abstains from signing.

(Signed) EUSTACE K. CORBET, *President.*

No. 67.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 116.) *Cairo, June* 30, 1900.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 114 of the 25th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Court of First Instance at Alexandria has condemned the two watchmen, accused of committing an assault on two British officers in the Khedive's estate at Montazah, to eight and three months' imprisonment respectively.

These sentences appear to me to be satisfactory, and in the event of appeal being made, the Procureur-Général will ask the Court of Appeal to confirm them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

No. 68.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 120.) *Cairo, July* 8, 1900.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 116 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Native Court of Appeal has this morning confirmed the Judgment pronounced by the Court of First Instance on the two watchmen accused of assaulting British officers at Montazah. The manner in which this case has been dealt with, both in First Instance and in Appeal, does great credit to the Egyptian judicial authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

No. 69.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 123.) *Cairo, July* 22, 1900.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Lord Cromer's despatch No. 96 of the 22nd May, and your Lordship's telegraphic reply, dated the 19th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of the Khedivial Decree sanctioning the loan of £ E. 1,700,000, to be expended on the improvement and extension of the Egyptian railway system.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RENNELL RODD.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Extract from the Egyptian "Journal Officiel" of July 21, 1900.

Decree.

NOUS, Khédive d'Égypte,

Vu la Loi de Liquidation du 17 Juillet, 1880;

Vu les Décrets des 27 Juillet, 1885, 30 Avril, 1888, et 6 Juin, 1890;

Vu le Firman de 1888 de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, contenant l'autorisation d'émettre un emprunt de £ E. 5,000,000;

Vu l'avis conforme des Commissaires-Directeurs de la Caisse de la Dette Publique;

Considérant que l'Allemagne, l'Autriche-Hongrie, la France, la Grande-Bretagne, l'Italie, et la Russie ont déclaré qu'elles acceptaient le présent Décret et qu'elles se sont engagées à le porter collectivement à la connaissance des autres Puissances qui ont pris part à l'établissement des Tribunaux Mixtes en Égypte et à les inviter à y adhérer;

Sur la proposition de notre Ministre des Finances et l'avis conforme de notre Conseil des Ministres,

Décrétons:

Article 1er. Notre Ministre des Finances est autorisé à émettre des titres de la Dette Privilégiée 3½ pour Cent jusqu'à concurrence de la somme nécessaire pour produire, en vue de l'emploi déterminé à l'Article 3 ci-après, une somme effective de £ E. 1,700,000, plus les frais qui incomberont à notre Gouvernement à la suite de cette opération.

Art. 2. Les titres de la Dette Privilégiée ainsi émis seront assimilés aux titres de la Dette Privilégiée actuellement en cours. En conséquence, l'annuité présentement affectée au service de la Dette Privilégiée sera augmentée d'une somme égale à l'intérêt à 3½ pour cent des titres émis en vertu de l'Article 1er du présent Décret.

Art. 3. La somme de £ E. 1,700,000, produite par l'émission dont il est parlé à l'Article 1er du présent Décret, sera versée à la Caisse de la Dette Publique et affectée à l'extension et à l'amélioration des voies ferrées exploitées par l'Administration des Chemins de Fer de l'État, ainsi qu'à l'augmentation de son matériel roulant.

Art. 4. Les Commissaires-Directeurs de la Caisse de la Dette Publique nous adresseront, après l'emploi total de la somme de £ E. 1,700,000, un rapport établissant cet emploi d'après les justifications qui leur seront produites.

Ce rapport sera publié au "Journal Officiel."

Art 5. Notre Ministre des Finances est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait à Alexandrie, le 12 Juillet, 1900.

Par ordre du Khédive,
(Signé) H. FAKHRY.

Le Président du Conseil des Ministres par intérim.
(Signé) H. FAKHRY.

Le Ministre des Finances,
(Signé) AHMED MAZLOUM.

No. 70.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 132.) *Cairo, August* 3, 1900.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a note which has been prepared by the Director-General of Reservoirs on the state of the Nile at the present moment.

It will be observed that the condition of the river compares favourably with last year's record, and gives promise of a good average flood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RENNELL RODD.

Inclosure in No. 70.

Note on the Nile at the beginning of August 1900.

THE following Statement gives gauges at different places on the 1st June, the 1st July, and the 1st August this year and last year:—

Date.	Khartoum.	Halfa.	Assouan.	Assiout.	Barrage.	
					Up-stream.	Down-stream.
June 1, 1899	0·83	1·49	85·15	45·57	14·00	10·42
June 1, 1900	0·16	1·07	84·25	44·94	12·98	9·34
July 1, 1899	2·05	1·96	85·69	45·82	14·00	10·18
July 1, 1900	1·23	1·62	85·10	45·47	13·30	9·29
August 1, 1899	3·97	4·50*	88·48	47·93	14·30	13·15
August 1, 1900	4·34	5·05*	88·12	47·62	15·46	11·25

* On the 2nd August, gauge of the 1st August, 1900, not having been received.

It will be seen that on the 1st June and the 1st July last year all the gauges were higher than on the same dates this year.

By the 1st August, however, the condition of the river this year had changed very much for the better as compared with last year, the Khartoum gauge being 0·87 m. and the Halfa guage 0·55 cm. higher. The Assouan and Assiout gauges are lower this year than last year owing to the rapid rise that has taken place further up the river not having reached them.

The most satisfactory point to be noted is that though the supply in the river from Assouan northwards was, as shown by the gauges at Assouan and Assiout, less than on the 1st August last year, the gauge up-stream of the barrage was 1·36 m. higher, the construction of the subsidiary weirs having made it possible to hold up the water to a much higher level than was previously considered safe. This means that nearly all the water in the river is being sent down the canals that are fed from up-stream of the barrage, and this will forward the irrigation of the "durra" crop very materially. Last year a gauge of 15·00 up-stream of the barrage was not reached till the 15th August.

Yesterday's gauge at Khartoum was 4·84, and last year this level was not reached before the 18th August. The gauges received from places on the Blue Nile show that the Khartoum gauge will continue to rise for some days.

It is too early to say whether the flood will be above or below the average, but the prospects of an average flood are good.

As regards crops. The reports of the cotton crop are good, and the large supplies in the canals taking off from the river up-stream of the barrage should insure the early irrigation of the "durra."

(Signed) W. J. WILSON.

August 2, 1900.

No. 71.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 134. Confidential.) *Cairo, August* 7, 1900.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the account of a recent interview with the Khedive, published in the native press here, has afforded an opportunity for estimating to some extent without prejudice, the effect upon His Highness of his recent visit to England.

Among the numerous Arabic journals published in Egypt, one only of any consideration has consistently supported the policy of reform carried out since the occupation, and has steadfastly co-operated, as a press organ, with the British Administration.

This journal, the "Mohattam," though largely read and appreciated by the more serious Egyptians, has with equal consistency been denounced by the various journals which affected to be inspired from the Palace or interpreted the aspirations of the so-called patriots, and is not unnaturally prohibited in Turkey.

The editor of the "Mohattam," Dr. Nimr, who has been travelling in Switzerland, recently sought and obtained from the Khedive the privilege of an interview. At the close of this interview, which lasted two hours, he asked His Highness if he might give publicity to anything he had said. The Khedive readily accorded him permission to publish whatever he thought best, thus making the "Mohattam" his mouthpiece to the Egyptian public, to the consternation of the opposition papers, who are no less disturbed by the medium of communication than by the sentiments openly expressed.

After describing at some length what he considered an act of obvious discourtesy on the part of the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna, which had caused him to address a complaint to the Sultan, His Highness went on to describe his illness and recovery.

In this connection he is reported to have said, "I cannot tell you how much I was gratified during my illness with the expressions of affection and loyalty which I received from my subjects, and the kind solicitude displayed by the people of England. Her Majesty the Queen sent daily to inquire after me, and the kindly feeling of the Royal Family and of all the British officials impressed me deeply. Untiring zeal was also displayed in arranging the various functions to suit my comfort, that I might not be fatigued after my illness. This, and the magnificent receptions given in my honour, similar to the receptions given to the greatest Sovereigns, have left a very deep impression on me."

His Highness then mentioned with great satisfaction the speech made by the Lord Mayor, which emphasized the importance of the maintenance of the best relations between his country and Great Britain. He hoped to have another opportunity of visiting England, and of renewing those ties of good feeling and friendship which have so direct an influence on the welfare of his country.

He then began to speak of his personal relations with British officials in Egypt, and said, "In talking to several important personages in England, I told them that I respected Lord Cromer and his strength. My experience had taught me that he was a man of trust, in whom I could have confidence. One who serves his country and labours for its well-being in all sincerity. If there had been disagreement at times it was inevitable when two individuals pursuing a similar object have a different starting-point. If I had ever found him weak or wavering he would have fallen in my estimation, and I should not have that regard which I now have for his Lordship. I have seen him in many moods, gratified and displeased, calm and troubled; we have been in agreement and in opposition; and I understand him and find it easy to transact business with him. It is both desirable and favourable to me that he should be in Egypt. In dealing with affairs directly and personally with Lord Cromer I have always found him amiable and conciliatory. Only when others have come between us and matters were openly discussed, they have not gone so smoothly, and divergencies of opinion only widened with unsatisfactory consequences. I have convinced myself that those who intervened were only endeavouring to create difficulties between us. This has, however, come to an end. There will be no room for their intrigues in the future."

His Highness then went on to speak in the most flattering terms of Mr. Gorst as well as of Sir Reginald Wingate, and was good enough to express his satisfaction with the execution of the arrangements with which I was intrusted in England.

These are, I think, the most important points in the interview which is reported with Oriental fullness of detail. The language attributed to His Highness is so entirely identical with that which he used on several occasions in conversation in England, that I have no doubt whatever that it has been accurately reproduced. The allusions, in the passage concerning his relations with Lord Cromer, to "other people who have intervened" is held by many to imply a covert attack on the present Ministry. This is a possible interpretation, and while, no doubt, His Highness meant to convey that in all matters where his *amour-propre* is concerned, it is pleasanter for him to deal directly with Lord Cromer than through Ministers, whom he perhaps suspects of taking a certain pleasure in handing him a prescription which they know he will not relish. I am inclined to think, from several observations which he made to me and to Sir Reginald Wingate, that these remarks had rather a retrospective character, and referred to certain episodes which are not likely to occur again.

His Highness appears throughout the interview to have desired to convey most frankly his sense of gratification with the results of his visit, and in view of the organ which he has chosen to give publicity to his feelings to the Egyptian public, it must be looked upon as something in the nature of a manifesto which should prove of good augury.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RENNELL RODD.

No. 72.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 138.) *Cairo, August* 12, 1900.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Report addressed by the Minister for Public Works to His Highness the Khedive, and published in the "Journal Officiel" of yesterday, giving the statistics of the corvée, or compulsory guarding of the Nile banks during the time of flood, for the year 1899.

From the comparative Table contained in this Report, your Lordship will perceive that the total of men called out for this purpose, more especially in Lower Egypt, fell considerably below those of previous years, this diminution being mainly due to the exceptionally low level attained by the Nile flood of 1899. A certain proportion, however, must doubtless be ascribed to the efforts of the officials of the Irrigation Department, who keep steadily in view the desirability of relieving the fellah population, as far as is possible, of this duty, which, as I have had the honour to point out to your Lordship on previous occasions, does not in any way constitute a serious or oppressive burden to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RENNELL RODD.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Extract from the Egyptian "Journal Officiel" of August 11, 1900.

MINISTÈRE DES TRAVAUX PUBLICS.

Son Altesse Abbas Pacha Hilmi, Khédive d'Égypte.

Monseigneur,

CONFORMÉMENT aux dispositions du deuxième paragraphe de l'Article 4 du Décret du 2 Avril, 1888, j'ai l'honneur de soumettre à votre Altesse le Rapport suivant, relatif aux opérations de la corvée en 1899.

Le Tableau (A) comporte les sommes dépensées dans chaque province, pour l'exécution, à l'entreprise, des travaux d'entretien et de protection qui étaient autrefois exécutés par la corvée.

ÉTAT (A).—CORVÉE 1899.

Cercles.	Provinces.	Budget de la Corvée.	Budget Ordinaire.	Total.
		£ E. m.	£ E. m.	£ E. m.
1er	Kallioubieh	16,147 885	3,540 885	19,688 770
	Charkieh	17,377 014	8,770 346	26,147 360
	Dakahlieh	12,475 101	12,649 562	25,124 663
	Drainage	..	14,219 297	14,219 297

Cercles.	Provinces.	Budget de la Corvée.	Budget Ordinaire.	Total.
		£ E. m.	£ E. m.	£ E. m.
2e	Menoufieh	41,998 102	22,437 142	64,435 244
	Gharbieh		17,999 555	17,999 555
	Drainage	..		
3e	Béhéra	21,806 466	10,130 437	31,936 903
	Guizeh	12,192 421	4,788 867	16,981 288
	Drainage	..	16,959 597	16,959 597
4e	Fayoum..	8,846 000	1,904 848	10,750 848
	Béni-Souef	14,620 000	4,930 951	19,550 951
	Minieh	22,861 865	4,670 921	27,532 786
	Assiout, 1re section	19,672 135	1,743 280	21,415 415
	Irrigation works	..	15,445 000	15,445 000
5e	Kénieh	24,621 149	2,288 011	26,909 160
	Frontière	7,032 437	241 989	7,274 426
Direction de Ghirgueh	Ghirgueh	21,155 142	1,227 981	22,383 123
	Assiout, 2e section	9,191 272	5,992 019	15,183 291
	Totaux	249,996 989	149,940 598	399,937 587

Le Tableau suivant (B) donne les nombres équivalents des corvéables réquisitionnés pendant 100 jours; il permet de faire une comparaison entre les nombres réquisitionnés en 1899 et dans les années précédentes jusqu'à 1896.

ÉTAT (B).—CORVÉE 1899.

NOMBRE des Corvéables réquisitionnés pendant 100 jours.

Cercles.	Provinces.	1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
1er	Kalioubieh	..	199	30	1,037
	Charkieh	..	..	..	201
	Dakahlieh	..	852	153	1,903
2e	Menoufieh	..	956	400	2,120
	Gharbieh	65	1,339	324	2,546
3e	Béhéra	324	2,011	964	1,145
	Ghizeh	337	1,927	561	1,434
	Totaux pour la Basse-Égypte ..	726	7,275	2,432	10,186
4e	Fayoum	437	241	516	508
	Béni-Souef	1,115	1,632	1,126	1,532
	Minieh	1,343	2,572	1,393	2,910
	Assiout	1,955	3,046	2,331	4,197
Direction de Ghirgueh	Guirgueh	1,195	3,094	1,073	3,453
5e	Kéneh	542	1,370	1,788	1,808
	Frontière	580	96	171	219
	Totaux pour la Haute-Égypte ..	7,167	12,051	8,398	14,627
	Totaux généraux	7,893	19,326	10,830	25,113

La crue de 1899 a été si exceptionnellement basse, que les mesures de protection exécutées dans les années précédentes, le long du cours du fleuve, purent à peine entrer en opération cette année et n'ont, par suite, eu que peu d'influence dans la réduction du nombre des corvéables réquisitionnés. La réduction qui a été réalisée

cette année sur les nombres des années précédentes est simplement due au soin qui a été pris de ne réquisitionner que le nombre strictement nécessaire pour le travail à exécuter.

En comparant les chiffres de cette année avec ceux de 1897, qui était aussi une année de basse crue, mais pas aussi basse que 1899, nous constatons une grande réduction dans la Basse-Égypte. Dans cette partie de l'Égypte, la plus grande partie des corvéables réquisitionnés a été appelée pour la région des Bassins du 3e cercle.

La réduction des chiffres dans la Haute-Égypte n'est pas grande. Cela tient à ce que, quelque bas que soit le Nil, les bassins y sont remplis d'eau et leurs digues doivent être surveillées. En certains points, par suite des différences extrêmes de niveau qui se produisent dans une année de basse crue, un plus grand nombre de gaffirs est nécessaire que dans une année de crue ordinaire. Voilà pourquoi les chiffres du 4e cercle et ceux de la direction de Guirgueh ne diffèrent pas de ceux de 1897.

Dans le 5e cercle, certains bassins ne reçurent pas d'eau du tout, de même que les digues du Nil, dans les dites régions, ne furent pas touchées par la crue, aussi est-il résulté de ces faits que la réduction dans les nombres est plus marquée dans les provinces du sud que dans celles qui sont situées plus au nord de la Haute-Égypte.

Dans quatre provinces de la Basse-Égypte, il n'y a pas eu du tout appel d'hommes.

J'ai, &c.
Le Ministre des Travaux Publics,
(Signé) H. FAKHRY.

Le Caire, le 23 Juillet, 1900.

No. 73.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 140.)
My Lord, *Cairo, August* 17, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Egyptian Government have received a telegram from the Grand Vizier informing them that the Sultan has recognized as valid the election of the new Greek Patriarch of Alexandria.

This brings to a satisfactory conclusion a matter which threatened at one time to give rise to considerable difficulties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RENNELL RODD.

No. 74.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 303. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 24, 1900.

A FEW days ago I received a card from Colonel Izzet Bey, Aide-de-camp of the Khedive, with a written message that he was charged to present to me His Highness' compliments and kind regards. I returned the visit, but not finding Izzet Bey at home, I left my card.

I have since learnt that before leaving Constantinople Izzet Bey was summoned to the Palace and told to tell the Khedive that the Sultan insisted on his coming to Constantinople. His Highness replied that he regretted to be unable to comply with His Majesty's wish, and he immediately ordered Her Highness the Khedivah to leave Constantinople, and not to wait for the Sultan's Jubilee.

I am also informed that an attempt was made on Wednesday last to prevent the Khedivah leaving. Eunuchs were sent to Her Highness to say that His Imperial Majesty desired she should remain here till the Khedive arrived, to which Her Highness replied that if His Majesty prevented her leaving, she would immediately claim protection from the British Ambassador, and would ask to be allowed to leave on board the Embassy yacht. The Sultan merely observed in reply: "Since the Khedive went to England he thinks himself a man."

No. 72*.

War Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 29.)

Sir, *War Office, August* 28, 1900.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to forward to you a copy of certain Rules, which it is proposed should in future regulate the employment of officers of the British army, with the Egyptian army.

These Rules are the outcome of conferences which have taken place between the Sirdar and the Military Secretary, and the Commander-in-chief and Secretary of State for War are prepared to agree to them on the understanding that they also meet with the approval of Lord Salisbury.

I am, &c.
(Signed) G. FLEETWOOD WILSON.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Draft Rules respecting the Service of British Officers with the Egyptian Army.

[For amended Rules, see Inclosure in No. 90.]

Her Highness left for the Piræus on the Khedive's yacht yesterday.

The incident is worth reporting, as showing the cold relations that at present exist between the Sultan and the Khedive, and I have sent a copy of this despatch to Cairo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 75.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 144.)
My Lord, *Cairo, August* 28, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith two copies of the supplement to the "Journal Officiel" of yesterday, containing the half-yearly Report prepared by the Commissioners of the Public Debt on the subject of the situation of the Guaranteed 3 per Cent. Loan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RENNELL RODD.

Inclosure in No. 75.

CAISSE DE LA DETTE PUBLIQUE.

Rapport adressé à son Excellence le Régent sur la situation de l'Emprunt Garanti 3 pour Cent.

Excellence,

D'APRÈS notre dernier Rapport à Son Altesse le Khédive sur la situation de l'Emprunt Garanti 3 pour Cent, le capital de cet emprunt, qui s'élevait au 1er Mars, 1900, à 8,410,800*l.*, s'est trouvé réduit à 8,369,200*l.* par suite de l'amortissement de 41,600*l.*, figurant à l'état (A) ci-annexé, amortissement effectué tant avec la dotation semestrielle qu'avec les réalisations des immeubles catalogués et les recouvrements des arriérés à fin 1879, et laissant un solde de £ E. 96·915 m.

En conséquence, la demi-annuité fixe de 157,500*l.* se répartira comme suit le 1er Septembre, 1900:—

125,538*l.* pour le coupon;
31,962*l.* pour l'amortissement.

Conformément aux prescriptions du Décret du 27 Juillet, 1885, nous avons l'honneur de présenter à votre Excellence la situation à ce jour des ressources sur lesquelles la dite somme de 157,500*l.* (£ E. 153,562·500 m.) doit être prélevée.

Elles s'élèvent à £ E. 2,114,172·584 m. savoir:—

1. Excédent au 30 Avril, 1900, £ E. 742,735·890 m.;
2. Versements opérés depuis le 15 Avril dernier sur les revenus des Chemins de fer, Télégraphes, et Port d'Alexandrie, et sur l'annuité à la charge du Ministère des Finances, en vertu de l'Article 3 du Décret du 6 Juin, 1890, £ E. 391,874·676 m.;
3. Versements opérés depuis le 1er Mai sur les recettes des douanes, tabacs, et provinces affectées, £ E. 979,562·018 m.

Le surplus de £ E. 1,960,610·084 m. reste disponible pour les échéances des Dettes Privilégiée et Unifiée des 15 Octobre et 1er Novembre.

Seront affectés à l'amortissement du 1er Septembre prochain, conformément aux indications de l'état (B) ci-annexé:—

	£ E.	m.
1. Le reliquat non employé lors de l'amortissement précédent (99*l.* 8*s.*) ..	96	915
2. La portion de la demi-annuité du 1er Septembre, 1900, non absorbée par les intérêts (31,962*l.*)	31,162	950
3. Le produit des réalisations diverses figurant au dit état (4,220*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*)	4,115	053
Le total de	35,374	918

soit 36,281*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*, sera employé au remboursement de 36,200*l.* d'obligations désignées par le tirage au sort auquel nous avons procédé le 27 Juin, 1900.

Il nous restera un solde en espèces de 81*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* à employer concurremment avec la dotation d'amortissement du prochain semestre.

Nous prions votre Excellence d'agréer nos respectueux hommages.

Les Commissaires-Directeurs,
(Signé) G. LOUIS.
O. DE MOHL.

Caire, le 16 *Août*, 1900.

(A.)

ÉTAT des Amortissements effectués pour la Semestrialité du 1er Mars, 1900.

Ressources.	£E.	m.	£E.	m.
Reliquat non employé lors de l'amortissement précédent			54	960
Portion de la demi-annuité du 1er Mars, 1900, non absorbée par les intérêts (31,338*l.*)			30,554	550
Réalisation des immeubles catalogués :—				
Recettes—	£E.	m.		
Recouvrements pendant les 2e et 3e trimestre, 1899, sur les ventes de 1899 et sur les arriérés dus pour ventes des années antérieures ..	19,909	258		
Dépenses—				
Part mise à la charge des biens catalogués dans les frais de service du bureau des immeubles libres de l'État ..	10,061	853		
			9,847	405
Recouvrements sur les arriérés des droits et taxes dus à fin 1879 :—				
Produit net des réalisations effectuées pendant les 2e et 3e trimestre, 1899			200	000
Coupons du 1er Mars, 1900, sur 10,000*l.* achetés par anticipation			146	250
			40,803	165

Emploi.	£E.	m.
Amortissement du 1er Mars, 1900 :—		
Remboursement au pair de 31,600*l.* de titres sortis au tirage du 15 Janvier, 1900 ..	30,810	000
Rachat fait par la Banque d'Angleterre en Janvier de 10,000*l.*, ayant coûté	9,896	250
Solde disponible	96	915
	40,803	165

	£
Capital nominal de l'Emprunt Garanti au 1er Mars, 1900	8,410,800
Obligations amorties	41,600
Capital nominal au 1er Septembre, 1900	8,369,200

(B.)

ÉTAT des Sommes à affecter à l'Amortissement du 1er Septembre, 1900.

	£E.	m.	£E.	m.
Reliquat non employé lors de l'amortissement précédent (voir état A)			96	915
Portion de la demi-annuité du 1er Septembre, 1900, non absorbée par les intérêts (31,962*l.*)			31,162	950
Recettes—	£E.	m.		
Recouvrements pendant le 4e trimestre, 1899, sur les ventes de 1899 et sur les arriérés dus pour ventes des années antérieures	6,854	935		
Dépenses—				
Part mise à la charge des biens catalogués dans les frais de service du bureau des immeubles libres de l'État ..	3,047	118		
	3,807	817	3,807	817
Recouvrements sur les arriérés des droits et taxes dus à fin 1879—				
Produit net des réalisations effectuées pendant le 4e trimestre, 1899			69	422
Reliquat provenant de diverses indemnités d'Alexandrie non réclamées (243*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*)			237	814
			35,374	918

Cette somme est employée au remboursement au pair des obligations sorties au tirage du 27 Juin, 1900, d'un montant nominal de 36,200*l.*, soit £E. 35,295.

Le reliquat de £E. 79·918 m. sera compris dans l'amortissement du 1er Mars, 1901.

No. 75*.

Foreign Office to War Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 12, 1900.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to state to you that he consulted Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Cairo, now on leave in this country, in regard to the draft Rules for the employment of officers of the British army with the Egyptian army, inclosed in your letter of the 28th ultimo.

Lord Cromer transmitted the draft to the Sirdar for his observations, and Sir F. Wingate has suggested a slight alteration in Rule 4, which has been noted in the draft.

I am to request that you will inform Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War that Lord Salisbury approves the proposed Rules, with the alteration desired by Sir F. Wingate.

Lord Salisbury will be glad to be supplied with copies of the Rules when issued.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 76.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 98.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Cairo, September* 14, 1900.

MAHMOUD DAMAD PASHA is on his way to Egypt, and the Egyptian Government will probably be asked to send him to Constantinople. He arrives on the 16th instant by Austrian-Lloyd steam-boat. The Khedive is away in the country, but returns on the 16th, when I can consult with him on the subject.

No. 77.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 99.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Cairo, September* 15, 1900.

FOLLOWING is substance of telegram received by the Khedive last night from Constantinople :—

His Imperial Majesty was much distressed to hear that Mahmoud Pasha was going to Egypt, feeling that, politically, such an event would produce serious trouble. He hoped, therefore, that steps would be taken to warn the Pasha before his arrival that he could not land in any Egyptian fort. There was, moreover, no reason for his wishing to do so, as a pardon awaited him in Constantinople.

The Sultan expects to hear that warning has been given to Mahmoud, and trusts that the Khedive, who had declared his readiness to try to persuade him, will now be able to convince him that he must return at once.

The Khedive's reply will be founded on a Memorandum drawn up by the Council of Ministers this morning. They advise His Highness that it would be impossible to prevent Mahmoud Pasha from landing in Egypt or to send him to Constantinople without a previous sentence having been passed to that effect in the Egyptian Courts. They therefore regret that they are unable to meet His Imperial Majesty's wishes.

They, however, beg His Highness to urge Mahmoud to leave Egypt, it being undesirable that he should remain in the country.

No. 78.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 100.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Cairo, September* 15, 1900.

WITH reference to my preceding telegram, would your Lordship authorize me, in the event of Mahmoud Pasha rejecting the Sultan's overtures, as he doubtless will, to convey to him, if necessary, a message to the effect that it is undesirable that he should remain in Egypt, and that he would do well to return as quickly as possible to Europe.

No. 79.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 101.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Cairo, September* 17, 1900.

YESTERDAY evening the Khedive received a second communication from the Sultan concerning Mahmoud Pasha, who had arrived here with his two sons in the morning. The telegram was to the following effect :—

That England, though temporarily occupying Egypt, had promised to assure the maintenance of Turkish sovereignty, and would, therefore, not act contrary to this principle. Moreover, the British Government had given no encouragement to Mahmoud when in London, and this fact had considerably impressed His Imperial Majesty.

This question was not one for deliberation by the Council of Ministers, being one in which the rights of the Sovereign Power were concerned. The Sultan had been

much disturbed by the Khedive's answer, and further insisted that Mahmoud must either return to Europe or be sent back to Constantinople, in which case he would be pardoned. Egypt must never be considered as a place of refuge for disloyal subjects of the Ottoman Empire.

The Khedive is in some degree answerable for Mahmoud's visit, as he told him in Switzerland that, so long as he lived quietly, there would be no objection to his coming to Egypt. During an interview yesterday, I urged His Highness, who will see Mahmoud to-morrow, to persuade him to return to Europe, as he probably does not believe in the Sultan's assurances of a free pardon, and will, consequently, refuse to go to Constantinople.

No. 80.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 102.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Cairo, September* 21, 1900.

AFTER an interview with Mahmoud Pasha, and having seen his correspondence, the Khedive has come to the conclusion that he cannot intervene to any advantage. No answer has as yet been returned to the Sultan's second telegram. Mahmoud gave His Highness to understand that, if some guarantee were given for his good treatment, he would prefer to return to Constantinople rather than lead a restless life in Europe. In order to obtain this guarantee the Khedive suggested that he should communicate, through the British Embassy, his readiness to return in consideration of a full pardon.

In submitting this proposal, I would point out that it would be better he should in any case not return to Constantinople straight from Egypt, but viâ Europe.

To-morrow I shall see his Secretary.

No. 81.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 103.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Cairo, September* 22, 1900.

MAHMOUD PASHA has intimated, through the medium of his Secretary, whom I saw this morning, that he is anxious to return to Constantinople with his two sons and his suite, on condition that he is fully pardoned and allowed to remain in possession of his property. He himself would undertake to live quietly and privately for the future, and make no further agitation.

In order to obtain a guarantee for these terms, he inquires whether the British Ambassador could be allowed to approach His Imperial Majesty on the subject.

I was informed that a similar proposal had been made to the Pasha when in Paris, the Sultan having asked the French Ambassador to negotiate; but Mahmoud had not agreed. Now, however, he would willingly do so, and would prefer that the negotiations should be left in the hands of Her Majesty's Government.

I replied that I would telegraph in order to ascertain your Lordship's views.

The Khedive has brought himself into some difficulty over this business, and if the matter can be so arranged considerable relief would be afforded him.

No. 82.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir R. Rodd.

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 25, 1900.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 103 of the 22nd instant. Her Majesty's Government could not, as far as I can see, act as intermediaries in negotiations between Mahmoud Pasha and the Sultan without rendering themselves in some degree responsible for the action which the latter may take in the future in regard to Mahmoud. That action is too likely to be of a nature for which it would be undesirable to incur responsibility.

No. 83.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir R. Rodd.

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 23, 1900.

I HAVE received your telegrams Nos. 102 and 103 of the 21st and 22nd instant.

I consider it inadvisable that Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople should act as an intermediary in negotiations between Mahmoud Pasha and the Sultan. By so doing Her Majesty's Government would render themselves in some degree responsible for the fulfilment of promises which they have no power to enforce. It would be advisable that you should visit Mahmoud Pasha yourself and explain the situation to him. You should give him to understand that for the present Her Majesty's Government will support the Khedive in declining to surrender him, but that he cannot be allowed to make any prolonged stay in Egypt in view of the position in which the Khedive stands towards the Sultan as his Sovereign. Mahmoud Pasha must, therefore, leave shortly for Europe if he does not arrange to return to Constantinople.

You should make a similar communication to the Khedive or the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs. Your telegrams and this reply should be repeated to Constantinople.

No. 84.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 104.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Cairo, September* 26, 1900.

I HAVE communicated to Mahmoud Damad Pasha the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 46 of the 23rd instant. Since his arrival in Egypt, his Excellency has been indisposed, and the English doctor who is attending to him is of opinion that he must remain for some days longer confined to his room.

I have also informed the Khedive of the substance of your Lordship's telegram. His Highness now begs, as a personal favour, that no immediate steps should be taken for the removal of Mahmoud Pasha. He has received from His Imperial Majesty a third telegram, which, with the messages previously received, he considers to be conceived in terms very wounding to his dignity. His Highness' view is that, should Mahmoud Pasha be sent back to Europe now, the Sultan would conclude either that the proceeding was due to servile obedience to orders, or to the authoritative intervention of Her Majesty's Government, both of these constructions being of a nature to humiliate him in the eyes of the Sultan and to render his position worse than if Mahmoud Pasha remains in Egypt. The Khedive assures me that the Pasha's return to Constantinople will be arranged if time be allowed for negotiation.

No. 85.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Cairo, September* 26, 1900.

IN continuation of my immediately preceding telegram, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Khedive has received a third telegram from Constantinople, stating that the messages previously sent were invitations to His Highness to execute the Imperial Firmans. These having been intentionally misinterpreted, and no steps having been taken by the Khedive to meet the wishes of His Imperial Majesty, it has been decided to await events.

No. 85*.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir R. Rodd.

(No. 48.) *Foreign Office, September* 26, 1900.
(Telegraphic.) P.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 104 of 25th September, I entirely approve of the efforts which you have made to meet the wishes of the Khedive respecting Mahmoud Pasha.

No. 86.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 156.) *Cairo, September* 23, 1900.

My Lord,

With reference to telegraphic correspondence on the subject of the arrival in Egypt of Mahmoud Damad Pasha, the Sultan's brother-in-law, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation from the Turkish of the telegram sent from the Palace at Constantinople to the Khedive, which was received by His Highness the 13th instant, the day Mahmoud Pasha left Brindisi, together with the Minute prepared by the Council of Ministers, on which the Khedive based his reply.

The second telegram from the Palace at Constantinople, translation of which is also inclosed, was received by His Highness on the 16th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RENNELL RODD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 86.

Telegram sent from Constantinople to His Highness the Khedive.

(Traduction.)

SA Majesté vient d'être informé que Mahmoud Pacha et ses fils se sont rendus à Rome dans l'intention de s'embarquer à Brindisi pour se rendre en Égypte.

L'admission en Égypte de Mahmoud Pacha et ses fils causera une profonde affliction à Sa Majesté et plus encore à la famille Impériale, et serait considérée comme une politique extrêmement dangereuse. En conséquence Mahmoud Pacha et ses fils ne devront être d'aucune façon reçus ni au Caire ni en Alexandrie ni dans aucune autre partie de l'Égypte. Cette mesure devra lui être notifiée formellement là où il se trouve avant son arrivée en Égypte. Vous avez fait connaître à différentes reprises vos intentions d'employer vos efforts pour le retour de Mahmoud Pacha et de ses fils à Constantinople. D'autre part, Mahmoud Pacha et ses enfants devant être à leur rentrée à Constantinople l'objet de la grâce de Sa Majesté, il n'y a plus lieu à leur départ pour l'Égypte. Dans ces conditions, Sa Majesté a donné l'ordre à ce que votre Altesse convainque Mahmoud Pacha et ses fils et les renvoie à Constantinople. Sa Majesté attend la réponse confirmant que votre Altesse a fait cette communication à Mahmoud Pacha. Il est à espérer que votre Altesse s'empressera de faire preuve de dévouement, et de faire tous ses efforts pour ne pas admettre Mahmoud et ses fils, ce qui donnera pleine satisfaction à Sa Majesté et doublera la bienveillance de Sa Majesté à votre égard.

Inclosure 2 in No. 86.

Minute by the Council of Ministers.

EN conformité des ordres de votre Altesse, nous nous sommes réunis en Conseil, et avons pris connaissance de la dépêche adressée à votre Altesse par le Mabein,* datée du 30 Août, 1316, relative à Mahmoud Pacha et ses fils.

* Mabein ("Palace").

Le Conseil, après examen attentif de la question, regrette vivement de ne pouvoir accéder à la demande tendant à empêcher leur débarquement, et à les envoyer à Constantinople.

En effet, les lois qui régissent le pays défendent formellement à l'autorité administrative toute mesure de cette nature, qui ne peut être prise qu'à la suite d'une décision judiciaire rendue dans les formes exigées par ces lois.

Toutefois, le Conseil estime qu'il serait à désirer que Mahmoud Pacha et ses fils ne séjournent pas en Égypte, et prie respectueusement votre Altesse, si cela rencontre sa haute approbation, d'user des moyens de persuasion envers Mahmoud Pacha pour l'engager à quitter avec ses fils le territoire Égyptien.

Inclosure 3 in No. 86.

Telegram sent from Constantinople to His Highness the Khedive.

(Traduction.)

LE télégramme concernant Mahmoud Pacha et ses fils a été expédié d'ici antérieurement à leur arrivée à Rome, et, par conséquent, avant leur embarquement à Brindisi.

Quant à la question de la délibération du Conseil des Ministres, quoique l'Égypte se trouve sous l'occupation provisoire de l'Angleterre, le Gouvernement Britannique a lui-même et dès les débuts de cette occupation, promis et donné les assurances de respecter le maintien de la souveraineté de l'Empire, ainsi que l'intégrité de ses droits sur le Khédivat, aux termes des dispositions des Firmans Impériaux. L'Empire a pris acte de ces assurances.

Il n'est pas admissible qu'après ces assurances et ces promesses une Grande Puissance comme l'Angleterre agisse, vis-à-vis de l'Empire, contrairement aux règles établies. Aussi, l'Empire envisage-t-il toujours cette question avec confiance.

La communication relative à Mahmoud Pacha et à ses fils rentrant dans les attributions sacrées et inviolables de l'Empire, ne saurait faire l'objet d'une délibération du Conseil des Ministres.

Il est, par conséquent, évident que l'on ne saurait agir contrairement aux termes des Firmans régissant le Khédivat.

Il est à remarquer aussi que par suite de leur conduite incorrecte, Mahmoud Pacha et ses fils n'ont été à Londres l'objet d'aucun accueil favorable. La Grande-Bretagne a témoigné ainsi de ses égards de courtoise et d'estime envers la personne de Sa Majesté le Calife, qui a été profondément touché de cette délicate attention.

Il est déjà regrettable de voir jusqu'à présent des sujets déloyaux se réfugier en Égypte; quelle serait la situation si l'on y admettrait avec ses fils un personnage qui a eu l'honneur de la parenté Impériale? Certainement leur admission produirait chez Sa Majesté le Sultan une fâcheuse impression qui entraînerait dans la suite un refroidissement dans les relations.

Toutefois il a été déjà soumis par l'entremise du Secrétaire de votre Altesse que Mahmoud Pacha recevra les conseils nécessaires, et sera envoyé à Constantinople. Il y a donc lieu de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour ne jamais admettre la présence en Égypte de Mahmoud Pasha et de ses fils, et de les envoyer à Constantinople, ou de les laisser en Europe, comme ils étaient.

Dans le cas où ils rentreraient, la grâce Impériale leur sera accordée, et ils ont à cet effet les garanties les plus sérieuses dans les sentiments de clémence de notre auguste Souverain, ainsi que dans la présence de Saniha Sultane.

En conséquence, ils ont le devoir de se rendre ici, sans jamais être admis en Égypte, ainsi qu'il a été dit plus haut. Sa Majesté Impériale a été impressionnée du télégramme de votre Altesse, et en a fait parvenir une copie à votre auguste mère, par suite de la dépêche qu'elle avait transmise hier à votre Altesse.

No. 87.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 159.)

Cairo, September 30, 1900.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 156 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of further telegrams which have passed between the Khedive and the Palace at Constantinople on the subject of the presence of Mahmoud Damad Pasha in Egypt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RENNELL RODD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 87.

His Highness the Khedive to the Palace at Constantinople.

(Traduction.)

Le 22 *Septembre*, 1900.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir votre dépêche du 21 Septembre.

Je suis toujours très heureux d'exécuter les ordres de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan. Toutefois, le retard que j'ai mis jusqu'à présent à répondre au sujet de Mahmoud Pacha est dû au langage très dur que je regrette de voir employé dans les ordres qui me sont transmis à cet effet, et dont l'exécution m'a mis dans une situation difficile.

Mahmoud Pacha persiste toujours dans les mêmes dispositions où il se trouvait lorsque je l'ai vu en Europe. Quoiqu'il ait reçu de nombreuses assurances de sa grâce, ses demandes particulières n'ayant pas été favorablement accueillies, il se trouve dans un état de méfiance; il est disposé à passer l'hiver en Égypte.

Si mon intervention dans cette question n'est pas désirée, je suis prêt à m'en abstenir immédiatement.

Inclosure 2 in No. 87.

The Palace at Constantinople to His Highness the Khedive.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.)

Le 24 *Septembre*, 1900.

SA Majesté Impériale le Sultan a pris connaissance de la réponse télégraphique en chiffres, envoyée par votre Altesse à la date du 27 Gamad-Awwal, 1318 (22 Septembre, 1900), concernant Mahmoud Pacha et ses fils.

Les commmunications faites au sujet de Mahmoud Pacha et ses fils constituaient une invitation à votre Altesse d'exécuter les Firmans Impériaux. Il a été reconnu qu'elles ont été intentionnellement mal interprétées.

D'autre part il a été constaté, avec beaucoup de regrets, que votre Altesse n'a voulu prendre aucune mesure de nature à donner satisfaction à Sa Majesté le Sultan. Dans ces conditions, Sa Majesté Impériale n'a naturellement donné aucun ordre à ce sujet.

Les copies des dépêches adressées à votre Altesse concernant Mahmoud Pacha, ainsi que celles des réponses de votre Altesse, ont été remises à votre auguste mère.

Il a été, par conséquent, décidé d'attendre les événements.

Je m'empresse, par ordre Impérial, de notifier ce qui précède à votre Altesse.

No. 88.

Consul Alvarez to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 9. Africa.)

Benghazi, October 1, 1900.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report the receipt of information a few days ago concerning an encounter on Senusian territory between a large caravan and French troops two months or so ago.

It seems this caravan, on the road from Gern to Waday, three days' journey from the former place, observed the approach of fifty dromedaries mounted by Europeans. Anticipating an attack the Arabs hastily made their camels kneel down in a circle without unloading them, and from behind this improvised rampart fired on the advancing Frenchmen first, and wounded one or two of them. It is not clear whether the French returned the fire or not. However, as a result of their expostulation with the Arabs on account of their aggression, hostilities ceased, and the caravan subsequently continued its journey, but since then it is said that caravans for Waday do not go beyond Kufra.

Great activity, however, prevails on the road to Gern, as there are many caravans from Zawias in the interior of this province, which deliver stores of forage and provisions of all kinds at Gern. There is evidently great anxiety in Senusy circles concerning the fate of the Grand Scheikh's Envoys to Darfur, and should your Lordship chance to be in possession of any other information concerning them, it might be useful for me to be acquainted with it. The Sultan of Waday is said to have greatly disgusted Tripoline and Benghazine merchants in his country by the excessive interest he shows in the trade in ivory and ostrich feathers, the prices of which are said to have increased owing to the Sultan's insisting on sharing in the profits made by local buyers. Foreign buyers consequently find it difficult to compete with him. This rule is also said to be becoming more severe than it was anticipated it would be in the beginning of his reign.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JUSTIN ALVAREZ.

No. 89.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 170. Confidential.)

Cairo, October 18, 1900.

My Lord,

ON my return to Cairo, I learnt that the Grand Cadi was seriously ill. A good many contradictory rumours are current as regards his health; neither can I state the precise facts with confidence. The President of the Council, however, informs me, on the authority of a Greek doctor, who, I understand, has been consulted professionally, that the Grand Cadi is suffering from some form of brain disease, which must ultimately prove fatal, although no precise or even probable limit can be fixed to its duration.

On the occasion of my first interview with the Khedive, His Highness spoke to me on the question of the procedure to be adopted for naming a successor in the event of the Cadi's death. His Highness said he wished to be prepared beforehand. I replied that I thought the precaution wise. I should mention that the matter is of some little importance, as it touches on the connection between the Sultan and Egypt in respect to a point which greatly interests Mahommedan opinion.

Heretofore, the Grand Cadis have always been Turks from Constantinople. It is not easy to ascertain the precise nature of the procedure followed; but I understand that, in the days of Ismaïl Pasha, an arrangement was made under which the Khedive designated, and the Sultan approved, the individual chosen for the post.

Your Lordship is, without doubt, aware that the relations between the Sultan and the Khedive are at this moment far from cordial. Partly on this account, and partly in order to shake off one of the last vestiges of Turkish control which remain in Egypt, the Khedive—as I gathered in conversation with His Highness—would really like to name some Egyptian to the post, submit his name to the Sultan, and intimate, possibly in some unofficial form, that no other nominee would be accepted.

His Highness appeared to be aware that he could not hope to carry out a measure of this sort without strong diplomatic support from Her Majesty's Government.

There can be no doubt that the Courts over which the Grand Cadi presides are very corrupt and inefficient. It is not probable that any Turkish official sent from Constantinople, whether chosen by the Sultan or by the Khedive, will do much to improve them. The only chance of improvement lies, in fact, in outside pressure being brought to bear on the details and execution of the system, backed by such British support as may occasionally be given without wounding the religious susceptibilities of the Moslem population.

If any Egyptian could be confidently indicated as a man possessing the capacity to conceive, and the authority to execute the necessary reforms, there would be something to say in favour of supporting the Khedive's programme. But I know of no such indi-

vidual. On the contrary, I am inclined to think an Egyptian would be more retrograde and less efficient as a Judge than a Turk.

Under these circumstances I cannot see that Her Majesty's Government would gain any adequate compensation for supporting a measure which would certainly be strongly resented by the Sultan, and in respect to which, moreover, the technical right would be on the side of His Imperial Majesty. Moslem opinion in Egypt would, I think, in this matter sympathize with the Sultan rather than with the Khedive.

Actuated by these considerations—which I have, of course, not laid before the Khedive in the form in which I submit them to your Lordship—I have discouraged the idea of naming an Egyptian Cadi, and I have hinted that, for obvious reasons based on the strong feelings capable of being invoked amongst Moslems in connection with a matter of this sort, the subject is not one in respect to which Her Majesty's Government would probably be disposed to adopt any very decided attitude.

From more recent conversations I have had with the President of the Council and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I am led to believe that the course which will now most probably be adopted will be for the Khedive to submit to the Sultan the names of two or three Constantinopolitan Turks, and to invite His Imperial Majesty to choose one from amongst the number. I do not think that any valid objection can be taken to the adoption of this procedure, which appears to be, broadly speaking, in accordance with precedent. It may be that the Sultan will not wish to nominate any of those whom the Khedive designates. Something will, of course, depend on the capacities and characters of the individuals, a point on which Sir Nicholas O'Conor—to whom I venture to suggest that a copy of this despatch should be sent—will probably be in a better position than myself to obtain trustworthy information. If, however, no great personal objections can be brought against the Khedive's nominees, I am inclined to recommend that, should the occasion arise, some moderate amount of support might be given to insure the acceptance of the Khedive's method of procedure, as I have explained it.

I trust that my proceedings in this matter will meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

No. 90.

War Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 29.)

Sir, *War Office, October 26, 1900*

WITH reference to my letter of the 28th August last, and your reply of the 12th ultimo, relative to the proposed new Rules for the service of officers with the Egyptian army, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have now approved of the necessary addition to the Pay Warrant, and I am to suggest that, in communicating this information to Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Egypt, the Marquess of Salisbury might see fit to request Lord Cromer to call upon the Sirdar to forward to your Department and the War Office copies of the Regulations for the employment of British officers with the Egyptian army, when amended in accordance with the Rules above referred to.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. H. KNOX.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Rules concerning the Service of British Officers with the Egyptian Army.

1. OFFICERS with not less than five years' service to join on a two years' contract, as at present.

2. At the completion of the first contract the service with the Egyptian army to be extended to complete four, and subsequently seven, years, should the Sirdar and the officer both desire this.

3. Should the Sirdar and the officer both wish for a further extension beyond seven years, the War Office will not object to this. But in this case the officer will be removed from his regiment or corps, and placed on the half-pay list. He will remain eligible for

army or brevet promotion, but will cease to have any claim to regimental promotion. In special cases, to be submitted by the Sirdar for the consideration of the Commander-in-chief, this removal to half-pay may be carried out previous to the expiration of the seven years.

4. Assistant Adjutant-Generals and civil and military appointments of equivalent rank in Egypt and the Soudan, when held by officers of the Egyptian army, to carry the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel for the purposes of Article 33 Royal Warrant.

5. Certain appointments in the Egyptian army to qualify for the rank of Brevet-Colonel, under Article 39 Royal Warrant. Proposals as to which these appointments shall be to be submitted by the Sirdar for the consideration of the Commander-in-chief.

6. Article 36 Royal Warrant to be taken as applying to the service of British officers with the Egyptian army, as well as to their service in the British army.

No. 91.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Lord Cromer.

(No. 206.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 31, 1900.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 109 of the 23rd instant, I transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a letter from the War Office,* inclosing the new Rules regarding the service of British officers with the Egyptian army as approved by the Treasury.

As soon as the Sirdar has modified the Regulations for the employment of British officers with the Egyptian army in accordance with these Rules, I request that you will obtain from him and forward to me copies of the amended Regulations for communication to the Secretary of State for War.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 92.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Viscount Cromer.

(No. 209. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 5, 1900.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 170, Confidential, relative to the question of the procedure to be adopted for the appointment of a Grand Cadi of Egypt in the event of the death of the present holder of the office.

Your Lordship's proceedings in regard to this matter are approved.

In accordance with your suggestion, I have communicated a copy of your despatch to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, for his observations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 93.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 383. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 6, 1900.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 219, Confidential, of the 30th ultimo, inclosing copy of a despatch from Lord Cromer on the subject of the procedure to be adopted, in the event of the death of the Grand Cadi of Egypt, for the appointment of his successor, I have the honour to offer the following observations as desired by your Lordship:—

If it can be shown that the course likely to be taken by the Khedive, viz., the submission by His Highness of the names of two or three Constantinople Turks for the Sultan to choose from, is in accordance with precedent, Her Majesty's Embassy would have strong grounds for urging the Sultan to make the selection from the names submitted.

* No. 90.

It does not, however, appear from the only despatch on the subject which I have been able to discover in the archives, that the Khedive had anything to do with the matter when a previous Grand Cadi died, presumably the predecessor of the present Grand Cadi.

The despatch to which I allude is Sir W. White's No. 78 of the 2nd March, 1891, to your Lordship, of which a copy is inclosed for easy reference.

It is therein stated that a new Grand Cadi was recommended by the Sheikh-ul-Islam, but that the Sultan's approbation had not yet been obtained, and that in the meantime a member of the Ulema was to be sent to Cairo as *locum tenens*.

It is of course possible that the recommendation of the Sheikh-ul-Islam was founded on a previous agreement with the Khedive. On this point it would be difficult to obtain precise information here without exposing the object of the inquiry, but Lord Cromer will doubtless be able to ascertain the facts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Sir W. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.

(No. 78.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 2, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to report that on the death of the Grand Cadi at Cairo, which occurred on the 20th ultimo, I received a telegram from Sir E. Baring asking for information as to the probable successor.

From inquiries I have made, I learn that the Sheikh-ul-Islam has recommended, as Grand Cadi, Rassim Effendi, formerly Grand Cadi in Bulgaria, but as yet this recommendation has not received the Sultan's approbation.

Pending the appointment of the new Grand Cadi, Djemal-ud-din-Effendi, an Ulema, is to be sent to Cairo as *locum tenens* to look after all matters of Sheri law in Egypt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 94.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 177.)
My Lord, *Cairo, November* 7, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a letter, with inclosure, which I have received from the Archbishop of Canterbury on the subject of the establishment of a Diocesan Bishopric for Egypt, and the collection of the funds required for that purpose.

Your Lordship will observe that his Grace requests me to ascertain the views of English Churchmen in Egypt on this proposal. I have therefore published the letter and appeal in the "Egyptian Gazette" for the information of the public.

I may, perhaps, find it advisable to call a general meeting of the British community to discuss the questions raised in the Archbishop's letter, but the desirability or otherwise of adopting this course can be decided later.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Extract from the "Egyptian Gazette" of November 6, 1900.

THE PROPOSED BISHOPRIC IN EGYPT.—We have received for publication the following letter, with its inclosure, addressed to Lord Cromer by his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, on the subject of the proposed endowment of a Diocesan Bishopric for Egypt:—

"My dear Lord Cromer, "*Lambeth Palace, London, September* 25, 1900.

"You are already aware that the Bishop of the Church of England in Jerusalem and the East has expressed a very strong desire to be relieved of some part of the burden which is now brought upon him by the steady increase in the work attached to his office. There can be no doubt that this relief could best be given by constituting Egypt into a separate and independent diocese.

"The increase in the number of Englishmen now employed in Egypt; the demands for clergy to visit a large number of small settlements scattered over the country, most of them unable to pay a chaplain for themselves; the numerous demands for schools to be worked in harmony with the excellent educational system of the Egyptian Government; all these imply work which requires skilful organization and strong and vigilant supervision, such as no one could give so effectively as an independent Bishop with full powers of action.

"I know that very little can at present be done in the Soudan, and though the Soudan ought to be included in the new diocese, the Bishop ought not to exercise his functions there until the Government shall have pronounced it permissible. But there will be no difficulty in arranging this.

"I have already received memorials on the whole subject from the congregations of St. Mark in Alexandria and of All Saints in Ramleh. I shall, of course, give great weight to what these memorials say.

"And if your Lordship shall have the opportunity of ascertaining the feelings of English Churchmen in Egypt generally, I should be very grateful. It is of great importance to carry the English congregations with us if we can do so.

"I believe that the step which we desire to take in founding a new Bishopric in Egypt will be of great value to the Church both at home and abroad.

"I am, &c.
(Signed) "F. CANTUAR."

The following is the inclosure referred to:—

"Appeal to be made to Churchmen in England to raise Funds for the Endowment of a Diocesan Bishopric for Egypt.

"An Appeal was issued in January 1899 by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, with other Bishops of both provinces, inviting Church people to subscribe towards the endowment of a Bishopric for Egypt.

"Hitherto, the Episcopal oversight of the Anglican congregations in Egypt has been exercised by the Bishop of the Church of England in Jerusalem and the East. But the work has grown in his hands and is still growing rapidly; and this has forced upon him the conclusion that, if the Church is to use the opportunities now open, he must be relieved of a portion of his burden.

"There is a large and steadily growing increase in the number of Englishmen now employed in Egypt; more clergy are wanted, and a careful organization of their labour such as to make it thoroughly efficient; there is a great demand for schools, many of the natives preferring that their children should be educated under the control or influence of English teachers. All this work demands the strong and vigilant supervision which an independent Diocesan Bishop would supply.

"Very little can be done at present in the Soudan. In the opinion of those whose long experience on the spot gives value to their judgment, it would seriously interfere with the great task of pacifying and civilizing the Soudan if any form of missionary work were to be carried on, or even appeared to be carried on, in that district at the present time.

"In these circumstances, it has been decided, with the consent both of Lord Cromer and of Bishop Blyth, that, while the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Egypt shall include all that portion of Africa defined by the Queen's Letters Patent as within the diocese of the Church of England in Jerusalem and the East, the active episcopal functions of the new Bishop shall be confined for the present to Lower and Upper Egypt, excluding the Soudan.

"Through the generosity of Church people at home, the sum of 8,000*l.* has already been subscribed towards the endowment of the Egyptian Bishopric, and we urgently appeal for further contributions. The sum originally asked for was 20,000*l.* This would barely yield 600*l.* a-year. The expense of living in Egypt is considerably higher than in England, and the expenses of travelling up and down the Nile, and

occasionally to England to report progress and find men, would certainly be heavy. We therefore ask, and are supported by Bishop Blyth in the request, that not less than 30,000*l.* should be raised, so as to put the Bishopric on a firm financial basis.

"Considering the connection of Egypt with the story of the Bible and with the very existence of the Christian faith, we cannot doubt that the members of the Church of England will respond heartily to the call.

No. 95.

Consul Alvarez to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 7.)

My Lord Marquess, *Benghazy, November* 11, 1900.

WITH reference to that portion of my immediately preceding despatch under date the 8th November, in confirmation of my belief that Es Senoussi had left Guru for the south temporarily, I have the honour to report that three new Zawias will be established, one in the territory of the Ewlad Suleiman, on the bank of a dried-up lake or river called Bahr Schary (not marked on the map) near the Bahr-el-Ghazal in Kanem,* another at an unknown spot in the vicinity of Kano,† and another in the country of the Tuareks.‡ This intelligence was brought to Benghazy by the Sheikh of the Meschaneb Zawia, who has just arrived.

In proof of the energy displayed by Seyd-el-Mehdy in the construction of the buildings in the interior now being proceeded with, I ought to mention that a consignment of 400 pickaxes was recently sent him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JUSTIN ALVAREZ.

No. 96.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 183.)

My Lord, *Cairo, November* 21, 1900.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 206 of the 31st ultimo, I have now the honour to forward copies of the amended Regulations for the service of British officers with the Egyptian army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 96.

Memorandum on Service of British Officers in the Egyptian Army.

Application.—Only officers on full pay in the British army are eligible for appointment in the Egyptian army, and those desirous of joining should send a request to that effect, through their Commanding Officers, direct to—

The Adjutant-General, Egyptian Army, War Office, Cairo.

A copy of the record of the officer's service should accompany the application, and he should state whether he has personally served with, or is personally known to, any officer now employed with the Egyptian army, stating his name.

Qualifications.—Qualifications which are requisite—

(1.) To have over five years' service.
(2.) Medical certificate that applicant is of good strong constitution and physique, and fit for service in tropical climates.
(3.) Certificate that applicant is unmarried.
(4.) Proficiency in languages.
(5.) Certificate of horsemanship.
(6.) To have passed for promotion to higher rank.

* North and north-east of Lake Tchad. † In the northern part of Sokoto.
‡ Country to the north of Sokoto.

Terms of Service.—Officers joining the Egyptian army are considered Staff Officers available for any service in the Egyptian army, or under the Soudan Government.

Rank on Appointment.—Officers join the Egyptian army with the rank of Bimbashi (Major) or any higher rank that the Sirdar may appoint them to.

Rates of Pay.—The annual rates of pay in the Egyptian army are—

Kaimakam (Lieutenant-Colonel)	£E. 720
Bimbashi (Major) after three months' probation	„ 540

Officers of superior rank to the above receive special rates of pay.

Contract.—Officers joining the Egyptian army sign a Contract for service for two years.

Terms of Service.—(1.) At the completion of the first Contract, the service with the Egyptian army to be extended to complete four and subsequently seven years, should the Sirdar and the officer both desire this.

(2.) Should the Sirdar and the officer both wish for a further extension beyond seven years, the War Office will not object to this, but in this case the officer will be removed from his regiment or corps and placed on the Half Pay List. He will remain eligible for army or brevet promotion, but will cease to have any claim to regimental promotion. In special cases to be submitted by the Sirdar for the consideration of the Commander-in-chief, this removal to half pay, may be carried out previous to the expiration of the seven years.

(3.) Assistant Adjutant-Generals and civil and military appointments of equivalent rank in Egypt and the Soudan, when held by Officers of the Egyptian army to carry the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel for the purposes of Article 33, Royal Warrant.

(4.) Certain appointments in the Egyptian army to qualify for the rank of Brevet-Colonel under Article 39, Royal Warrant. Proposals as to which these appointments shall be, to be submitted by the Sirdar for the consideration of the Commander-in-chief.

(5.) Article 36. Royal Warrant to be taken as applying to the service of British Officers with the Egyptian army, as well as to their service in the British army.

By Order,
(Signed) J. J. ASSER,
Assistant Adjutant-General,
for Adjutant-General Egyptian Army.

War Office, Cairo, November 17, 1900.

Form of Certificate to be Signed by an Officer on Joining.

I, of the Regiment agree that, if during my service in the Egyptian army, I become engaged to be married, or marry, I will thereupon unreservedly place the resignation of my appointment in the Egyptian army in the hands of the Sirdar, for him to deal with as he thinks best in the interests of the service.

(*Signature*)

Date.

No. 97.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 185.)

My Lord, *Cairo, November* 24, 1900.

A REFERENCE to the Marquess of Salisbury's despatch No. 63 of the 30th March last, and to my despatch in reply, No. 71 of the 7th April, will make clear to your Lordship the circumstances under which the Portuguese Government delayed giving their assent to the four Decrees of 1890, which have been accepted by the other Powers, modifying the Code of the Mixed Tribunals in Egypt.

No answer has yet been received from the Portuguese Government. The Austro-Hungarian Consul-General here called to see me yesterday, and explained that great inconvenience was being caused to his "administrés" by the suspension of the operation of these Decrees.

I undertook, if M. de Velies would request the Austrian Government, through their Representative at Lisbon, to press the Portuguese Government for a settlement of this question, to submit for your Lordship's consideration whether Her Majesty's Minister might be instructed to associate himself with the Austro-Hungarian Minister in making a similar communication.

The concessions which Boutros Pasha is prepared to make to meet the views of the Portuguese Government should, I think, make a solution of this question easy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

No. 98.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Viscount Cromer.

(No. 226.)
Foreign Office, December 6, 1900.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch No. 177 of the 7th ultimo relative to the proposed establishment of an Anglican Diocesan Bishopric for Egypt.

Your Lordship's action in regard to this matter is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 99.

Foreign Office to Sir H. MacDonell.

(No. 56.)
Foreign Office, December 7, 1900.

Sir,

WITH reference to the Marquess of Salisbury's despatch No. 19 of the 18th April last, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Cairo,* stating that the Portuguese Government have not yet given their assent to the four Decrees modifying the Code of the Egyptian Mixed Tribunals, and that the Austro-Hungarian Consul-General has informed him that great inconvenience is being caused to Austro-Hungarian subjects by the delay in putting the Decrees into operation.

In view of the concessions which the Egyptian Government are prepared to make to meet the wishes of the Portuguese Government in regard to the status of Portuguese Consular officers, there should be no difficulty in arranging this matter.

You are authorized to concert with your Austro-Hungarian colleague with a view to representing to the Portuguese Government the desirability of an early settlement of the question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 100.

Viscount Cromer to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 187.)
Cairo, November 27, 1900.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 177 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to forward a copy of a letter which I have addressed to the Archbishop of Canterbury on the subject of the proposal to establish an Egyptian Bishopric.

I have not thought it necessary or desirable to call a general meeting of the Anglican community to consider this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

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* No. 97.

Inclosure in No. 100.

Viscount Cromer to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

My dear Lord Archbishop,
Cairo, November 27, 1900.

ON my return to Cairo I caused your Grace's letter to me of the 25th September to be published.

At Cairo itself the question of establishing an Egyptian Bishopric appears, so far as I can gather, to excite but little interest. As regards Alexandria, I am informed that the Memorials which have been already addressed to your Grace represent, broadly speaking, all that the Anglican community in that city have to say on the subject. I inclose, however, some extracts from the "Egyptian Gazette," which throw some additional light on the state of local public opinion.*

I remain, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

No. 101.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Viscount Cromer.

(No. 232.)
Foreign Office, December 14, 1900.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch No. 177 of the 7th ultimo relative to the proposed establishment of an Anglican Bishopric in Egypt.

Your action in regard to this matter has my approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 102.

Sir F. Plunkett to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 24.)

(No. 259.)
Vienna, December 17, 1900.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 106 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to report that I informed Count Lützow the day before yesterday of the instructions which your Lordship had sent to Her Majesty's Minister in Lisbon to support his Austro-Hungarian colleague in pressing the Portuguese Government to give their assent to the four Decrees which have been accepted by the other Powers, modifying the Code of the Mixed Tribunals in Egypt.

Count Lützow said he would at once inform Count Goluchowski of your Lordship's friendly action in this matter.

The hesitation shown by the Portuguese Government was causing serious inconvenience to certain Austro-Hungarian subjects, who had claims in Egypt against Portuguese, and, therefore, his Excellency was very grateful to your Lordship for the steps you were taking to hasten a solution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

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* Not inclosed.